

The BULLETIN

OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY



Volume XXXVII

June, 1953

Number 6

MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1896

INCORPORATED 1914

FOR THE PROTECTION OF WILD BIRDS AND MAMMALS

AUDUBON HOUSE, 155 Newbury Street, Boston

Open weekdays, except Saturday, 9:00 - 5:00; Saturday, 9:00 - 1:00.

Phone KENmore 6-4895.

ROBERT WALCOTT

President

C. RUSSELL MASON

Executive Director

HONORARY VICE PRESIDENTS

Arthur C. Bent	Guy Emerson	John F. Kieran
E. Alexander Bergstrom	S. Gilbert Emilio	D. Percy Morgan, Jr.
Thornton W. Burgess	Charles B. Floyd	Roger Tory Peterson
Lawrence B. Chapman	W. Cameron Forbes	Frederick A. Saunders
Robert Crane	Alfred O. Gross	Henry S. Shaw
Walter Prichard Eaton	Mrs. Augustus Hemenway	John H. Storer
Samuel A. Eliot, Jr.	Bartlett Hendricks	William G. Vinal
George J. Wallace	William P. Wharton	

DIRECTORS

OAKES I. AMES, *Chairman*

Mrs. Donald C. Alexander	Roger Ernst	John B. May
Clarence E. Allen	Laurence B. Fletcher	Rosario Mazzeo
Francis H. Allen	Mrs. Maxwell E. Foster	Mrs. Lawrence K. Miller
Richard Borden	Ludlow Griscom	Alva Morrison
Elliott B. Church	Philip B. Heywood	Mrs. James F. Nields, Jr.
G. W. Cottrell, Jr.	Miss Louisa Hunnewell	Mrs. John Richardson
Lee W. Court	Edwin C. Johnson	Mrs. Sydney M. Williams
Eric Cutler	Ralph Lawson	

MEMBERSHIP

The Society needs a larger fund in order to sustain and increase its activities. Will you help expand its usefulness? The classes of Membership are:

Active Member, \$3.00 annually; Supporting Member, \$5.00 annually;

Contributing Member \$10.00 annually; Life Member, \$100.00; Patron, \$500.00.

Dues and Contributions to the Massachusetts Audubon Society may be deducted from net income subject to Federal Income Tax. Requests to the Society are also exempt from Federal Tax.

ADVANTAGES OF MEMBERSHIP

Personal participation in the preservation and restoration of native birds and mammals and their environment.

Information from competent specialists on the best methods of wildlife study and protection on home grounds, in sanctuaries, or elsewhere, and assistance in identification.

All members receive without further expense the monthly BULLETIN.

Opportunity to contribute toward an extensive EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM for schools, youth groups, and camps throughout the State.

Use at any time of the Reference and Lending Libraries, Club Room, and other facilities at Audubon House, 155 Newbury Street, Boston.

Members and their friends have free use of our sanctuary facilities at Moose Hill, Arcadia, Pleasant Valley, Cook's Canyon, Nahant Thicket, and Ipswich River (see inside back cover of *Bulletin*).

Conducted field trips to strategic points, and seasonal Campouts for bird watchers.

Special member's discount allowed on purchases of bird food, bird feeders, bird-houses, books, and other supplies.

BULLETIN

OF THE

MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY

C. RUSSELL MASON, *Editor*

JOHN B. MAY, *Associate Editor*

FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *Consulting Editor*

HELENA BRUCE, *Assistant Editor*

RUTH P. EMERY, *Editor, Records of New England Birds*

Contributing Editors

ARTHUR C. BENT, THORNTON W. BURGESS, JOHN V. DENNIS, SAMUEL A. ELIOT, JR., ADA CLAPHAM GOVAN, LUDLOW GRISCOM, ALFRED O. GROSS, RICHARD HEADSTROM, BARTLETT HENDRICKS, HENRY M. PARKER, ROGER TORY PETERSON, WINSOR M. TYLER, WILLIAM G. VINAL.

Editorial Office, AUDUBON HOUSE, 155 Newbury Street, Boston 16, Mass.

Publication Office, 380 North Avenue, North Abington, Mass.

Entered as Second Class Matter October 21, 1946, at the Post Office at North Abington, Mass., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

Issued monthly, except July, August, and September

Subscriptions to the *Bulletin*, \$2.00 per annum, included in all memberships. Subscription to *Records of New England Birds*, \$2.00 per annum. Single copies of either, 25 cents. The *Bulletin* may also be obtained in microfilm, details on application.

The Editor solicits the gift of articles, notes, photographs, and sketches, on the various aspects of Nature Lore, Natural Science, and Conservation of Natural Resources. If possible, articles should be typewritten, double-spaced, on one side of the paper. Photographs should be on glossy paper with data attached. The Society is a non-profit educational institution and we offer no remuneration for contributions to the *Bulletin*. The Society assumes no responsibility for the safety of manuscripts or illustrations submitted for its use.

All correspondence, changes of address, etc., should be directed to the Editorial Office, 155 Newbury Street, Boston 16.

VOLUME XXXVII

JUNE, 1953

NUMBER 6

CONTENTS

	Page
President's Page	230
Bullock's Oriole Added to Massachusetts Fauna	<i>C. Russell Mason</i> 231
New Audubon Teacher in Connecticut Valley	236
Ten Memorable Audubon Trips	<i>Henry T. Wiggin</i> 237
The Louisiana Water-Thrush in Eastern Massachusetts	<i>Harry S. Forbes</i> 240
Looking Ahead: Some Dates to Remember	242
A Count of Summer Resident Birds in Essex County Massachusetts	<i>Oscar M. Root</i> 243
Another Black-headed Grosbeak	<i>Bartlett Hendricks</i> 247
Nelson's Downy Woodpecker	<i>Francis H. Allen</i> 248
From the Editors' Sanctum	249
Cherry Tree in June	<i>Addie Bell Hobbs</i> 250
Our Western Visitor	<i>Helen Caroline Tate</i> 251
Notes from Our Sanctuaries	253
Audubon Week (Membership Notes)	256
Thumbnail Sketches of Our Directors	258
A Birding Day in Southeastern Alaska	<i>Jerram L. Brown</i> 259
Wood Ibises (Verse)	<i>Marion E. Beecher</i> 261
Evening Grosbeak Movements	<i>Christopher M. Packard</i> 262
Belmont Hill Boys Go Birding	<i>Reginald Heber Howe II</i> 264
Field Notes	268, 269, 271

Cover Illustration, BULLOCK'S ORIOLE and PINE SISKIN, at the Clayton Collins feeding station, Falmouth, March, 1953, George Blake Johnson.

The President's Page



For this June issue I take my text from Lowell's *Biglow Papers*, No. VI, "Sunthin' in the Pastoral Line," 1862, a great favorite with Dr. May and with your President:

"'nuff sed, June's bridesman, poet o' the year,
Gladness on wings, the bobolink, is here;
Half-hid in tip-top apple-blooms he swings,
Or climbs against the breeze with quiverin' wings,
Or, givin' way to't in a mock despair,
Runs down, a brook o' laughter, thru the air."

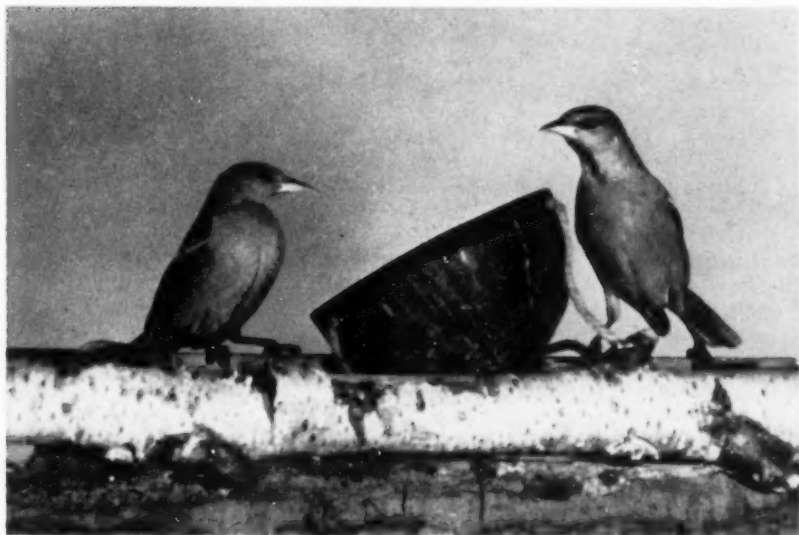
In a recent issue of the *New Yorker*, a resident of Salisbury, Connecticut, records the changes there since he was a boy: "The grass in the water meadows is cut earlier, so that it interferes with the nesting bobolinks and they have gone to higher and drier pastures." It would appear that Mr. Lowell found his Bobolinks all around him at "Elmwood," in the salt meadows at Gerry's Landing, and in the wide fields to the west and north of Fresh Pond in Cambridge. As boys we didn't find them in the salt marshes but they commonly bred around Fresh Pond. During the First World War, however, the land about the pond was mostly filled for use as a City Golf Links, and there was no more room for the Bobolinks. Similarly the fields between Mount Auburn and the Oakley Country Club became covered with buildings, subsequent to the Rapid Transit reaching Harvard Square, so that now Bobolinks are no longer common, which we greatly regret and read with nostalgia Bryant's pretty poem, "Robert of Lincoln," one of his last tributes to the birds for whom "To A Waterfowl" (1818) was one of his first. The earlier poem has been set to music and sung as a hymn. I remember vividly its effect when given at the funeral of Dr. Maurice H. Richardson, who liked to recite it and often played it to an accompaniment of his own.

The spirit of June is well given on the cover of the attractive folder published for the Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary. Surely no muscular Christian had a greater appreciation of the beauty of nature than did the late John Charles Phillips: "Oh if there were only more little rivers! Time steals them away one by one and mine has been saved almost by a miracle." Thus he wrote about the Ipswich River. He would have been delighted, as were Mr. Bradford Williams, Editor of the *Journal of Landscape Architecture*, and Howard Zahniser, Editor, and Executive Secretary of The Wilderness Society, in the finding "thru the perseverance and ingenuity of Miss S. D. Obst, secretary to the present Frederick Law Olmsted" of the lost Preliminary Report on "The Yosemite Valley and the Mariposa Big Trees" presented by the senior Frederick Law Olmsted on August 8, 1865, to the Yosemite Commission. This Report might be taken as a charter for conservation of natural beauty just as William Ellery Channing's sermon at Baltimore is thought of as a charter of Unitarianism. It should be read in full, either in the October, 1952, issue of *Landscape Architecture* or in the *Living Wilderness*, No. 43, Winter 1952-53. In it he writes: "The power of scenery to affect men is, in a large way, proportionate to the degree of their civilization and the degree in which their taste has been cultivated."

Robert Lowell

Bullock's Oriole Added to Massachusetts Fauna

By C. RUSSELL MASON



GEORGE BLAKE JOHNSON

A pair of Bullock's Orioles at the Collins Feeder, Falmouth, March, 1953.

At ten o'clock on the morning of December 2, 1952, Jean Collins picked up the telephone to call her mother at the Town Hall in Falmouth, to tell her that an unusual bird was at their feeding station and that it resembled nothing they had ever seen before. This started a chain of events that led to a fully verified identification of a species which for several years had been considered a possible winter straggler to Massachusetts.

When Jean's mother, Mrs. Clayton W. Collins, arrived home that noon, the bird was still present. That evening Mr. Collins joined the other members of the family in poring over their own and borrowed bird books, until they came to the conclusion that their winter visitor was an immature male Bullock's Oriole. The news was relayed to Mrs. Walter L. Chesebrough, of Needham, a relative, who, in turn, telephoned Audubon House in Boston to inquire if the identification could be checked, for it seemed to her, from a lack of previous records in New England and the difficulties of field identification of immature orioles, that the presence of a Bullock's Oriole in this region required expert confirmation.

By December 21 the Collins family became aware that there were two orioles coming to their feeders, the second bird apparently an immature female. Whether this second oriole had just arrived or had been present for some time is undetermined. But as Mrs. Collins had frequently remarked that each time the oriole arrived it looked a little different, she is of the opinion that both birds may have been at the feeding station since early December but did not appear together until December 21.

Davis H. Crompton, of Worcester, Field Research Agent for the Massachusetts Audubon Society, called to see the birds, but the fleeting glimpse he caught of one oriole led him to believe it to be an immature Baltimore. Later, however, after studying the pale-bellied, black-throated oriole in Easthampton, he wrote Mrs. Collins that he was not satisfied with his first impression and thought the bird might be a Bullock's because of the grayish-white under parts.

With fifty orioles reported this winter throughout New England, the question of identification of these birds was still unsolved in February. On February 25, after spending the night at Falmouth en route to Martha's Vineyard, the writer, with Davis Crompton and Charles Parker, made two trips before breakfast to the Collins home but did not sight an oriole. Just before leaving town, all three stopped at the Town Hall to discuss the matter with Mrs. Collins and to discourage the idea that the birds she had reported were Bullock's Orioles, since all orioles checked in eastern New England during the winter, including one specimen found dead in Middleboro, had appeared to be immature Baltimores. Mrs. Collins was not convinced, and the visitors decided to take one more look before leaving for Woods Hole to catch the boat for the Vineyard. This they did, and the moment they peered over the high lawn fence surrounding the Collins property, the male bird alighted only a few feet away, and so startling was his appearance that it called forth the involuntary exclamation, "This is certainly a Bullock's, not a Baltimore!" A few minutes later the female appeared, and detailed notes were made on the color and markings of both birds. The rough descriptions included the following points: Male — throat and breast brilliant orange, with a narrow black stripe from the chin down the throat to the upper breast; under parts dirty white; crissum dull yellow; top of head and back greenish gray; lower back gray; rump yellowish; tail-feathers yellow beneath; wings with two white wing bars (one broader than the other); a dark line from bill through eye; yellow superciliary line; the bill rather long, with upper mandible black and lower mandible dark gray. Female — bright orange patch in the middle of yellow breast; under parts dirty white; crissum dull yellow; top of head greenish gray; back gray; upper rump gray; lower rump greenish; two rather prominent white wing bars. In general, the whole pattern of the female was much like that of the male, except that the black stripe on the throat and the black line through the eye were lacking, and the orange breast was less brilliant.

On March 2, arrangements were made with James W. Greenway, Curator of Birds at the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard, for examination of the series of skins of both Baltimore and Bullock's Orioles. No Baltimores in the long series of skins resembled the male bird at the Collins feeder, but there were several Bullock's Orioles, collected within their usual wintering haunts at the same period of the year, which had markings practically identical with this bird. It was much more difficult to try to find a counterpart for the female, which resembled several of the female Bullock's Orioles in the skin collection, but was also considerably like some of the female Baltimores. Since the complete characteristics of the immature Bullock's x Baltimore hybrids are unknown, the difficulty of identifying female Bullock's is intensified. Mr. Greenway suggested that if the male bird could be captured in a banding trap and caged during the spring season, he might change into summer plumage and would likely start to sing.

Next in the chain of events was the visit of George Blake Johnson, of Framingham, to Audubon House later that week, to show some of his latest

stroboscopic photographs of wintering finches. A plan was proposed, and quickly accepted by Mr. Johnson, that he spend the next week end at Falmouth taking color photographs of the two orioles. This he did, spending two full days on the project and photographing the birds from many angles. The photographs turned out beautifully and were shown to a number of people, including Ludlow Griscom, of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, who felt that the possibilities were good that the male bird was a Bullock's and suggested that sample pictures be sent to Dr. George M. Sutton, Professor of Zoology and Curator of Birds at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Sutton is an authority on the orioles, particularly the Baltimore and Bullock's and the hybrids which occasionally result where their ranges overlap.

On March 26 three color transparencies were sent by registered mail to Dr. Sutton for his examination and opinion, together with a description of the birds as they appeared at this time. A prompt reply was received from Dr. Sutton, dated April 3, from which we quote:

I have spent a good deal of time with the colored pictures and with my extensive series of Baltimore and Bullock's Oriole specimens. Many of these specimens are from Oklahoma, from an area of overlapping ranges. I have, as you know, long been interested in these two birds, and it is my hope that one of my graduate students may presently be able to collect breeding pairs and rear their progeny to adulthood in such a way as to give us far more precise knowledge of the F₁ generation.

It is my belief that both of the orioles pictured are *bullocki*. It may come as a surprise to my good friend Ludlow Griscom, as well as to you, to learn that I have yet to collect a young male *Icterus galbula* with a color-pattern at all similar to that of the black-throated bird of these pictures. I have tried to obtain such a specimen, but have so far failed. There surely must be immature male *Icterus galbula* with black throats, but if this color-pattern is at all common, why did I not obtain it in New York or West Virginia? The grayness of both birds in the pictures indicates *bullocki* to me too. Immature *galbula* are sometimes grayish on the flanks and belly, to be sure, but to me the grayness has an olive cast and is not the cold, ashen gray of the birds in your pictures. The length of bill in the flying bird pictured certainly suggests *bullocki* strongly, but I refuse to pay very great attention to this, for photography sometimes distorts shapes subtly in such a way as to create very false impressions. In the other pictures bill-length does not very strongly suggest *bullocki*; here, in each case, the bill is more or less foreshortened as a result of the attitude of the bird.

I wish we had some measurements; and I am going to be so bold as to suggest that next winter, when moot birds of this sort show up, they be caught and measured with great care. I have another suggestion: that certain feathers be pulled out and preserved. I have not yet done much work along this particular line; but I am convinced that if *bullocki* is actually longer-tailed than *galbula* this fact will be apparent from measurement of a single rectrix, or from two rectrices, even as it would be from the traditional tail measurement of the scientific skin. More work along this line should be done and a technique developed. When we have perfected such a technique it

will not be necessary, in many cases, to kill the specimen at all. I believe Griscom will agree with me in this, though he may have suggestions as to what the method should include.

In the meantime, with the season advancing, it was thought that the Bullock's might at any time leave for the West. The male bird did disappear from March 20 to March 26, and it was feared that perhaps he had been the victim of some predator, for the female continued to visit the feeding station during this period. However, on the morning of March 26 the male returned and fed hungrily, as though starved. Early the following morning the male and female arrived together. Mrs. Collins reported that this time the male turned on the female furiously, pecking and screeching at her and finally chasing her off the premises. He then returned to the feeder and calmly proceeded to stuff himself. Some little time later, after his departure, the female, with ruffled feathers, returned to eat. Through the early part of April both birds visited the feeders daily, usually in the morning. On April 10 the male was first heard singing, and he sang almost daily thereafter until April 24, the date of his last appearance.

On April 11 and April 14 the writer made early morning trips to Falmouth, taking with him several banding traps, and arriving at the Collins home at 6:30 A.M., the time for the first morning visit of the orioles. On the first trip he had been looking over the fence only two minutes, when the male Bullock's appeared, sang several times, and then, after the banding traps were set and the Collins "bird pudding" provided, he was captured, banded with Fish and Wildlife Service band No. 39-167356, and released, all within fifteen minutes. He was so little disturbed by this handling that he perched on one of the lawn trees to examine and peck at the band and to sing occasionally while the female came for her breakfast. By nine o'clock the female was captured, measured, banded with Fish and Wildlife Service band No. 39-167357, and released. The writer spent the rest of the day watching these birds come and go while he banded seventy-five Pine Siskins, which like the Collins bird-food just as much as the orioles do. During the spring snowstorm on April 14 the two birds were again captured, and measured, and before being released the two rectrices next to the outer tail-feathers were removed and retained, in accordance with Dr. Sutton's suggestion.

With the advance of spring, the color of both birds had deepened, and examination of the male in the hand revealed some black feathers starting to show on the greenish head, the yellow line over the eye had deepened to orange, and the lores had turned broadly black. The eyes of both birds were dark brown.

The measurements taken were as follows:

	Male	Female
Total length	7.75 in.	7.13 in.
Length of tail	3.00	2.81
Length of bill, at top	.75	.75
Length of bill, gape to tip	.81	.81
Length of wing	4.00	3.62
Length of tarsus	1.00	1.00
Length of rectrices extracted	3.25	3.00

During the latter part of April the male chased the female considerably, apparently as a part of the courtship performance, and the female gathered nesting material from time to time and occasionally went through the motions

of starting nest building. The male stayed around the Collins feeding-station practically all day on April 24, perhaps "stoking up" for a long journey toward the setting sun. The female stayed through April 29, lingering almost to the time for the arrival of the Baltimores from the South.

During April many bird-watchers received a warm welcome at the Collins home as they came to see the orioles. The visitors included several who, like Mr. Griscom, were familiar with Bullock's in life in its usual range.

Forbush's *Birds of Massachusetts* contains only one record for the Bullock's Oriole, a specimen formerly in the collection of Manly Hardy, taken in Maine about November 15, 1889. Other Bullock's Orioles reported among the many wintering orioles this season, all sight records, include two birds in Glastonbury, Connecticut; one at Laconia, New Hampshire; and one at Easthampton, Massachusetts. Three of these birds, from the descriptions furnished, were apparently immature females, most difficult to distinguish in the field from Baltimores or from possible hybrids.

It has been suspected for some time that Bullock's Orioles might be occurring in winter in Massachusetts. Late in 1948 there appeared an immature female oriole at the feeding-station of Mrs. Harry Kidger in Easthampton, where it stayed until mid-April, 1949. It was so gray as to be almost colorless except under the tail, but in April the fore parts became yellower below, greener above. Roger T. Peterson, seeing it on March 17, assured R. D. Ross that in grayness it was "an extreme example" of the female Bullock's. On March 27 it was captured in a banding trap by Edwin A. Mason, banded, measured, and compared with a series of skins borrowed by Henry M. Parker from the Museum of Comparative Zoology. It did not tally exactly with any of these specimens, which all seemed smaller than the live bird, but the nearest to it was a Bullock's Oriole collected in the same week of an earlier year in its usual winter range. Again this past winter, from December 12 to January 24, an oriole came daily to Mrs. Kidger's feeder. This bird was brighter in color but no less like Bullock's, since it had a narrow stripe of black down the throat and precisely matched a picture of Bullock's (immature male) in the *National Geographic Magazine* for July, 1934. Thirdly, a male corresponding in plumage to the one in Falmouth was regular, from November 17, 1951, to January 1, 1952, at the feeder of Robert M. Clark in Florence, a part of Northampton. Professor Samuel A. Eliot thinks that Dr. Sutton's remarks on the Falmouth male are equally applicable to this Florence male of the previous winter, and his never having seen a black throat-stripe on a Baltimore is of weight in confirming this season's Easthampton bird. Unfortunately, no photographs of sufficiently high caliber for identification were taken of these three Hampshire County individuals.

One of the two females at Glastonbury, Connecticut, was photographed by Dr. Lee J. Whittles, but the bird, from the kodachromes, seems to the writer



Mr. and Mrs. Collins bait the Bullock's Oriole trap.

to be a Baltimore rather than a Bullock's. Professor Samuel A. Eliot, who studied both birds on January 5, 1953, was uncertain about this one, but did feel that the one farther south, grayer and with sharper demarcation between yellowish breast and soiled-white belly, might be a Bullock's.

The oriole at Laconia, New Hampshire, appeared in late October, 1952, at the feeding station of Dr. and Mrs. James Conway and stayed until April 30, 1953. From the detailed description supplied by Mrs. Conway, the bird would seem to be of much the same pattern as the Falmouth female Bullock's. The favorite food of the Laconia oriole was grapes, twelve to fifteen being eaten daily, but the bird also ate something from the bird food mixture, perhaps peanut hearts, and caught insects on the wing. On two very stormy nights it took refuge under the roof of the back porch.

In view of the unusual number of wintering orioles this season in New England, is it not logical to suppose that there has been recently a west-east movement of these birds in the fall, bringing to the east coast from the overlapping breeding ranges of the Bullock's and the Baltimore Orioles in the West a few Bullock's, a greater number of Baltimores, and perhaps even some hybrids?

New Audubon Teacher in Connecticut Valley



Upon the resignation of Miss Mary Beitzel, who has served the Massachusetts Audubon Society most acceptably since 1944 and now leaves the teaching staff to enter the business world, Frank Floyd Chrapliwy has been engaged to take over Miss Beitzel's classes in the Connecticut Valley. A graduate of Springfield College in 1951, Mr. Chrapliwy will receive his Master of Science degree this year from the University of Massachusetts, where his particular studies relate to education, zoology, and wildlife management.

Mr. Chrapliwy is a native of Wisconsin, but his family later moved to Indiana, where he attended Washington High School in South Bend and after graduation spent a year at Indiana University Extension Center. While at Springfield College he was a member of the Science Club and of the Band, played Varsity baseball for three years, and participated in other sports. His recreational interests also include nature photography, music, square dancing, horticulture, archery, and camping.

During World War II, Mr. Chrapliwy served with the Army Airborne Engineers, both at home and abroad, as a mine detector operator and assistant to the special service officer.

During his college years he has had opportunity to gain teaching experience, and he has served as nature director at the Springfield College Day Camp and as assistant director of recreation for four public playgrounds in Amherst. During the summer of 1953 he will direct the Conservation Camp for Youth operated in the Berkshires by Wildlife Conservation Incorporated and the State Department of Conservation.

Ten Memorable Audubon Trips

By HENRY T. WIGGIN



SALLY BOWKER

A Winter Birding Group

When I first went on Audubon trips in 1940, I thought to myself, "This breaks all the rules I've ever read about how to observe birds. The books say to go with a small group and be as quiet as possible." Here was a busload of forty people and four cars trailing behind. Whenever we'd stop at a good birding place, everybody would pile out, chattering away, and I would think, "I don't see how these people expect to see anything!" Perhaps that explains why so many of my most memorable trips were in the winter, when the birds to be observed were mostly water birds that wouldn't take wing when a group of people sounding like a political convention approached. Nevertheless, it is really astonishing how often an Audubon trip will turn up some unusual species, even rare land birds.

Occasionally I go on a trip with a few friends in an automobile on the same day as an Audubon bus trip. We assume that in an automobile we can cover more ground and will therefore see more birds. It is indeed sad, then,



MAURICE C. EMERY

A Bus Stop for Spring Migrants

when we check Plum Island carefully for Snowy Owl, and don't see one, and then find out that the Audubon group of fifty people spotted one.

Here are my ten best Audubon trips, listed chronologically.

AUGUST 24, 1941. This trip to Plum Island for shore birds occurred shortly after I became interested in birds. It is not often that in one spot — by the plum bushes on the Joppa Flats — you can see in the course of four hours Hudsonian Curlew, Marbled and Hudsonian Godwits, Golden Plover, Willet, and Western Sandpiper, and have good looks at all of them. At that time these were, for me, all life birds. Not once since that date have I seen all these species of shore birds in one day.

SEPTEMBER 6-8, 1942. Audubon Cape Cod Campout. Oddities on the boat trip included a Sharp-shinned Hawk, seen sixteen miles from land; the only Long-tailed Jaeger I've ever seen — fortunately Mr. Griscom was there to identify it — and the smell of the "chum" used as bait plus a heavy ground swell made me feel slightly squeamish; four Parasitic Jaegers; one Greater Shearwater; and numerous Northern Phalaropes and Wilson's Petrels. The next day at Monomoy we had a Franklin's Gull, a Baird's Sandpiper, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, and a Philadelphia Vireo. What a week end!

MAY 24, 1942. The first day in my life I had more than one hundred species of birds in one day. The Audubon trip went to Ipswich, then by boat to the south end of Plum Island. A migration wave had rolled in the night before, and we found in the thickets Alder and Yellow-bellied Flycatchers (I spotted and identified the latter to my intense pride). On the way home in the boat we saw an Eastern Willet, one of two I've seen in my life.

JANUARY 23, 1944. The Gray Sea Eagle trip. That bird is probably the rarest species I've ever seen. The trip was carried on in a driving rain-sleet storm. Moreover, these were war days and there was no steam-heated bus; we went by train to Newburyport, walked out to Plum Island, and then back again. Needless to say, by the end of the day we were drenched clean through, despite Mr. Mason's valiant efforts on our behalf. He slogged into town from the Newburyport Yacht Club and got the key so that we could "drink" our lunch under cover. No other really rare birds turned up that day, but seeing the Gray Sea Eagle flying around was thrill enough!

APRIL 29, 1945. Audubon trip to Sudbury Valley. This was one of those rare spring days we dream about but which seldom materialize — sunny, warm — but not too warm, and a pleasant southwest wind. Our land-birding wasn't extraordinarily good, but we had an excellent hawk day: three Cooper's, one Red-tailed, eight Red-shouldered, five Broad-winged, one Pigeon, and the *pièce de resistance* was a beautiful male Goshawk that swooped low over us.

NOVEMBER 8, 1945. An Essex County trip, but we made a special side trip to Fresh Pond and the adjoining golf course to get a good start, for we saw there, at extremely close range, a Snow Goose and a White-fronted Goose. Even if our best bird from then had been a Herring Gull — though it was not — no one could complain. It isn't often you have a trip with two life birds within the first half hour!

JANUARY 27, 1946. To all who went on that day it's still "The Ivory Gull Trip." This was the usual excursion following the Annual Meeting, and the demand was so great that we had two busses. We started out at Plum Island in fine style, getting all three white-winged gulls and good views of a European Black-headed Gull and a Short-billed Gull (*Larus canus*). It was when we

were riding around Cape Ann, though, that the fun started. I was riding in the second bus (we were about one hundred feet behind the other bus), and suddenly somebody yelled "Stop!" We could see from the bus a pure white pigeonlike gull sitting on the roof of a house. A party leader said: "Watch the color of the legs!" The leaders got out to investigate further. This was followed in a few minutes by frantic beckoning motions. We all spent a few blissful moments observing the Ivory Gull. Then somebody had the bright idea to find Lost Bus No. 1 which had disappeared down the road. It was about five miles ahead of us by that time, and a car had to be sent after it posthaste. A few speed laws may have been broken, but in fifteen minutes the rest of the party came scurrying back in time for further observation of this rarity. Unfortunately, the bird was probably worn out with its travels, for it did not survive, and the specimen is now in the Peabody Museum, Salem.

JANUARY 26, 1947. Snowy Owls were very scarce that winter. When we got to Plum Island we spent an hour scanning haycocks and staddles in the marsh, having our hopes raised only to be dashed on finding that our "bird" was a white sign or a sheet of paper. We finally gave up sadly and headed up the island toward the Coast Guard Station. Passing the church en route, Mrs. Arthur Argue found what we had been looking for — sitting, of all places, on the cross on top of the church. Few of us before or since have had such a good look at a Snowy. He was a beautiful white male, scarcely a brown fleck to be seen. Later on in the day we had a Golden Eagle at Chain Bridge, a Kittiwake at the Coast Guard Station at Plum Island, and a Hoary Redpoll mixed with a nice flock of Common Redpolls. It is easy to see why everyone who was on that trip looks back with nostalgia to January, 1947.

MAY 23, 1948. A trip I shall always remember started out at Lynnfield to search for Rails. We heard the usual Sora and Virginia Rails and saw and heard Long-billed Marsh Wrens, and we were just getting ready to move on to the next stop when Mr. Mason, pointing into the air, called out, "Look, look! See what is coming this way." And there, right above us, were three Glossy Ibises soaring around. They circled over our heads for a couple of minutes, and everyone could see them well before they disappeared to the north. Later we had a Blue-winged Warbler at Perry Avenue in Lynnfield and an Eastern Willet and a Purple Martin at Plum Island. When the day ended we had 120 species, to my knowledge the most a single day's Audubon field trip has ever yielded.

JANUARY 23, 1949. Another January trip following the Annual Meeting. Over the years this trip has been, I think, the best of the entire year. This one is most memorable to me for a 25-second look at a beautiful male White-winged Crossbill that came out of nowhere to alight on the branch of a pine tree at Chain Bridge, Newburyport, and then went off into the blue. However, we also had three male Canvas-backs seen from the Newburyport Yacht Club, a Pacific Loon seen from the Coast Guard Station, and two Western Palm Warblers at Andrews Point, Rockport. Not too bad!

There have been many other good Audubon trips. For example, in February, 1953, when Mr. Mason plucked a drowsy male White-winged Crossbill off a spruce tree at Kelsey's Nurseries in Boxford; and in January, 1951, when we puzzled over a peculiar murre at Land's End, Rockport, for thirty minutes and were going to call it a Bruennich's, when Mr. Griscom came along and identified it as an immature Atlantic — a life bird for almost all of us.

The Louisiana Water-Thrush in Eastern Massachusetts

By HARRY S. FORBES



Louisiana Water-Thrush at Its Nest.

HAL H. HARRISON

The question whether a species of bird is extending its range is always intriguing, even though there may be no satisfactory answer. Here is a brief review of reports on the Louisiana Water-Thrush, *Seiurus motacilla*, taken chiefly from *Records of New England Birds*, 1945-1951, and a few comments from my own observations.

Yearly totals: 1945	1 bird	1949	7 (or 8) birds*
1946	3 birds	1950	4 birds
1947	2 (or 3) birds*	1951	15 birds
1948	7 (or 8) birds*	1952	17 birds

In the Blue Hills region of Milton six different areas are designated. These were all tributaries of the same brook, and some of the areas were only a quarter of a mile apart. It is probable that some birds strayed from one area to another. Care was taken to search one area immediately after examining the neighboring areas up and down the stream. In spite of this it is likely that recounts may have occurred three or four times as indicated.

*It is possible that one of these birds had been counted previously in another area or on a prior date.

Here are the detailed counts:—

- 1945, April 26, Concord, 1, Armstrong.
- 1946, April 27, Cambridge, 1, Karplus.
 April 27, Milton, Area A, 1 (singing), H. S. F.
 April 27, Milton, Area D, 1, (singing), H. S. F.
- 1947, May 5, Milton Area D, 1 (singing), H. S. F.
 May 5, Milton Area A, 1 (singing), H. S. F.
 May 10, Milton Area B, 1, Emerys and H. S. F.
- 1948, April 22, West Gloucester, 1, Snyder.
 May (thru), Boxford, 1, Argues.
 May 4, 8, Milton Area A, 1 (singing on May 8), H. S. F.
 May 8, Milton Area B, 1 (not singing), H. S. F.
 May 12-15, Milton Area D, 1 (singing), H. S. F.
 May 22, Beverly, 1, Leadbeater.
 June 5, Milton Area F, 1 (singing), H. S. F.
 June 16, Milton Area A, 1 (singing), H. S. F.
 (This area was examined several times a week, but no Louisiana Water-Thrush was heard or seen here between May 8 and June 16.)
- 1949, April 26-29, Milton Area A, 2 birds together, not singing (probably a pair), H. S. F.
 May 1, Braintree, 2, (singing in different regions)* H. S. F.
 May 8, 16, Boxford, 1 (singing), Griscom, Snyder.
 May 14, Freetown near Lakeville line, 2 (singing in different regions)* H. S. F.
 May 19, Milton Area A, 1 (singing).
- 1950, April 15, 30, May 23, Boxford, 1, Keenan, Emery, H. S. F.
 April 18, Concord, 1, Scudder.
 May 13, 21, Lincoln, 1, F. Elkins, Drew.
 May 13, Fall River to Westport, 1, (State-wide Bird Walk).
- 1950 was a very dry year. The ground water level and brooks were all low. No Louisiana Water-Thrush was seen or heard in the Blue Hills region despite careful search.
- 1951, April 15, 21, Boxford, 1, Snyder, Griscom.
 April 21, Milton Area B, 1 (singing), Cobb.
 April 25, Milton Area A, 1, H. S. F.
 April 26, Fall River, 1, Hentershee.
 April 27, Dedham, 1, Marshall.
 May 4, 5, Milton Area C, 1 (not singing), H. S. F.
 May 5, Fall River to Westport, 2, (State-wide Bird Walk).
 May 9-15, Lincoln, 1, F. Elkins.
 May 10, Milton Area A, 1, (singing), H. S. F.
 May 10, Milton Area B, 1, H. S. F.
 (I think these May 10 reports are both new birds, as both areas were examined daily since April 25 and no birds found until May 10.)
 May 10, 12, 20, Dedham, 1, Marshall.
 May 15, 17, June 18, Milton Area E, 1 (singing), Wollaston, H. S. F.
 May 16, Boston, Bay State Road, 1 (singing), Beal.
 June 13, North Andover, 1, (singing), Root.
- 1952, April 13, 16, Boxford, 1, 2 males, 1 female, Castle, Griscom party.
 April 22, Milton (Blue Hills), 1, Forbes.
 April 26, Norwell, 1, West & Higginbotham.
 April 27, No. Andover, 1, Nash.
 April 29, Fall River, 2, Hentershee party.
 May 3, Fall River-Westport, 1, Hentershee.
 May 5, Pride's Crossing, 1 (seen and heard), Burnett.
 May 10, Cambridge (Mt. Auburn), 1, Sands party.
 May 11, Boxford, 2, Griscom party, Keenan party.
 May 14, Milton, 1, Forbes.
 June, 10, Milton (Blue Hills), 1, Brookline Bird Club (Wollaston).
 July 12-18, Hopkinton, 1, Temple.
 September 8, Nantucket, 1 (rare), Whittles.

*In 1949 four birds (2 in Braintree, 2 in Freetown) were found in hemlock and hardwood swamps. These birds all had somewhat atypical songs. They were studied carefully and showed brown speckles on the lower throat, but white upper throat just below the bill. The question of Grinnell's Water-Thrush is raised.

Although these counts show an upward trend since 1945, it is of course too short a period to be more than suggestive. This is particularly true owing to such variables as increased popular interest in field identification.

From many localities, ranging from Boxford to Westport, the usual dates for arrival of the Louisiana Water-Thrush appear to be between April 15 and May 10. The Hermit Thrush and Ruby-crowned Kinglet usually are reported some days before the Louisiana, and the Northern Water-Thrush about ten days after.

My impression is that the Louisiana sings little immediately after arrival. I have found it at first on the ground, feeding and resting along the pools and little waterfalls of wooded hillside brooks. Within a few days a change in its habits is apparent, though I believe this has escaped general notice. The bird now is to be found high among the trees, singing from a perch ten to forty feet up. For several hours morning or afternoon it spends four fifths of its time in this way. Every ten minutes or so it stops singing, drops quickly to the brook, and feeds for a couple of minutes before flying back to its perch. While in a tree it perches quietly without teetering, but often turns its head and occasionally reverses its position, resulting in sudden changes in intensity of the song or in the direction from which it appears to come.

Close observation of the bird may be difficult, since he is wary and may shift to a perch a hundred yards away on slight provocation. Also the difficulty is increased by the rough nature of his habitat — rocky ravines with small brooks running through a tangle of briars and fallen trees.

One of the most useful aids in learning of the presence of a Louisiana Water-Thrush is his song. The first three notes: *tswee-tswee-tswee*, have something of the insistent, penetrating quality of the Indigo Bunting's song, but less loud. The carrying power is perhaps two thirds that of the usual song of the Oven-bird, and the rest of the song is less emphatic.

Seiurus motacilla, like the Water Ouzel of the Rocky Mountain canyons, is a bird of the clear rapid streams. If its range is indeed increasing through eastern Massachusetts it will be good news, and the causes of this extension will make an interesting study.

LOOKING AHEAD: SOME DATES TO REMEMBER

JUNE

MEETINGS AT AUDUBON HOUSE

Massachusetts Conservation Council

June 3, 2:00 P.M.

Massachusetts Audubon Society

June 10, 3:00 P. M. Board of Directors

MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY, STAFF LECTURES

June 2, Waterbury (Conn.) Naturalist Club

OTHER AUDUBON ACTIVITIES

June 3-5, Audubon Teachers Conference, Mt. Greylock.

June 5-7, Berkshire Campout. Headquarters at Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield.

June 4, 11, Sanctuary Evenings at Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield.

June 14-27, Natural Science and Conservation Workshop, Cook's Canyon, Barre, Massachusetts.

JULY - SEPTEMBER

July 5 - August 15 Wildwood Nature Camp, Barre, Mass.

July 6 - August 14 Natural History Day Camps at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Northampton; Cook's Canyon Wildlife Sanctuary, Barre; Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield; Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, Sharon; Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Lenox.

August 23 Audubon Field Trip, by automobile, to Ipswich Beach.

September 11-13 Cape Campout, with headquarters at Wayside Inn, Chatham.

A Count of Summer Resident Birds in Essex County, Massachusetts

BY OSCAR M. ROOT

From June 9 to June 25, 1952, I counted birds in the western part of Essex County in the inland towns of Andover, North Andover, West Boxford, and Bradford in order, first, to gauge the present relative abundance of the summer residents, and, second, to ascertain any changes and the causes thereof in the summering land bird populations since 1900.

In the case of sixty-five species I counted only adult males, making identification both by sound and sight. I assumed that males were mated, or that there was an equal number of unmated females, and therefore doubled the number of males to reach the totals appearing in the list of summer residents. This was done in the following groups: Pheasant, Mourning Dove, cuckoos, Whip-poor-will, Hummingbird, woodpeckers, flycatchers, Blue Jay, Chickadee, House and Long-billed Marsh Wrens, Catbird, Thrasher, thrushes, vireos, warblers, House Sparrow, blackbird family, Tanager, and finches. In the case of the remaining forty species I have listed only the adult birds seen or heard, whatever their sex. These latter are, for the most part, birds which have very large territories, feed outside their nesting territories, or have flocking habits.

One should observe caution in comparing relative abundance of species on the basis of my counts, because (1) I spent less than half my time in the densely populated forests in a region which is from sixty to seventy per cent forested; 2) The hours (all in only one season) and area constitute too small a sample of the region; and (3) I made no allowance for the varying conspicuousness (size, color, form, behavior, environment) of the birds counted. In spite of the inaccuracies of this type of count, I believe it has clarified the present numerical status of many summer residents and that it has also suggested trends in some resident bird populations since 1900.

Since historical time, forest ecology has been dominant in the Andover area. The region is a part of the mixed deciduous-coniferous province of New England. During the latter half of the nineteenth century white pine was predominant. Commencing with the early settlers, this pine was cut for clearing of land, construction, and the manufacture of matches, boxes, and other wood products. Hemlocks and hardwoods, including oak and chestnut, were also cut for fuel and the manufacture of ships, wheels, telephone poles, and other items. Fires, all too numerous, such as the crown fire which swept the present Harold Parker State Forest area in 1895, as well as the American chestnut blight in the early part of the present century, also helped with forest destruction. The best timber had largely disappeared by 1900 and had disappeared almost entirely by 1925.

At no time did the forests approach complete demolition. The woodlands were cut piecemeal as stands came upon the market. For the most part coniferous lots were cut clean, leaving no trees, or too few, for seed, so that there was a transition to scrub and second-growth hardwoods of little value. We may picture the forests of the Andover region in 1900 as a mixed deciduous-coniferous growth made up largely of young second-growth hardwoods and, in lesser numbers, second-growth pines and hemlocks, all in varying stages of fairly rapid recovery from exploitation carried on during many previous

decades. Many large pines, hemlocks, and hardwoods were still present. Scrub conditions resulting from the lumbering were plentiful. Ample nesting habitat was available for both forest and scrub-loving birds.

At present the forests, mostly unpastured, are much more deciduous than in 1900, in spite of the planting of numerous coniferous stands by individuals and the establishment of the 2365-acre Harold Parker Forest (1916) and the 112-acre town forest in North Andover in 1926. From the air the region appears to be 60-70 per cent forested. There is occasional small-scale lumbering of white pines; also minor cutting for fuel, house lots, highways, and power lines. These operations produce oak coppice and other scrub conditions suitable for birds requiring a scrub habitat. As the mixed forests have steadily increased in extent and height following depletion, more nesting habitats have become available for such forest-loving birds as the Hairy Woodpecker, Crested Flycatcher, Black-capped Chickadee, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Oven-bird, Canada Warbler, and Scarlet Tanager.

Our agricultural ecology at the beginning of the present century may be termed "horse ecology." Horses instead of machines were used on farms, and elsewhere horses afforded the chief means of transportation. Maintenance of horses required enormous acreage for pastures, as well as many fields devoted to raising corn, oats, and hay for feed. With the appearance of the motor age the horse has largely disappeared from our farms and as a means of transportation. Many fields have been changed to truck gardens. Other fields have been abandoned. Also, the abandonment of small farms, commenced during the nineteenth century, is being expedited today because, owing to the use of machinery, fewer but larger farms are accomplishing what more but smaller farms formerly did. These unused farm lands are now growing up to weeds and dry scrub, reverting slowly to forests, or are being utilized for residential purposes. Less land is used for agriculture and more for forests in the Andover region today than in 1900. By eliminating nesting habitats and by affecting insect life and other niche characteristics, changes in agricultural land-use may well have had adverse effects upon the summering populations of such birds as the Kingbird, Phoebe, Barn Swallow, Brown Thrasher, House Sparrow, Bobolink, Grasshopper Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, and Field Sparrow.

It is interesting to compare the summering status of some of the resident birds of the Andover region with that of the birds in the eastern part of the county as presented in the 1952 *Field-list of the Birds of Essex County, Massachusetts*. This list was published to help birders who do not know the much-birded eastern area well (low transitional zone approaching Carolinian, with many salt marshes, dunes, tidal flats, beaches, rocky shores, bays, and harbors). The less-birded Andover area has a higher degree of transitional nearing low Canadian. On January 1, 1945, farm lands constituted 39.0 per cent of Essex County. Of the thirty-five towns in the county, only approximately one third are birded intensively. Some of the birds which appear to be more plentiful in Andover and near-by towns than farther eastward are: Crested Flycatcher; Black-capped Chickadee; Wood Thrush; Hermit Thrush; Blackburnian, Prairie, and Canada Warblers; Northern Water-Thrush; Scarlet Tanager; Grasshopper Sparrow. Birds less plentiful westward are: herons; ducks; Killdeer; Kingfisher; Barn Swallow; Cliff Swallow; Nashville and Pine Warblers; Savannah Sparrow.

Twenty-six birds are worth discussing because trends in their populations

are apparent. Two very rare and irregular summer residents, the Short-billed Marsh Wren and Louisiana Water-Thrush, both recorded in 1951, are not included because they appear on neither Ford's list nor mine for 1952. Abbreviations used are: "1900" for Ford's booklet and "1952" for Root, Andover list. Terms to indicate abundance are:

(1) for 1900, those used by Ford; (2) for 1952, based on my counts, as follows: 1-10 very rare (if irregular); 1-10 rare (if regular); 11-50, uncommon; 51-150, common; 151 and over, very common.

Eastern Kingbird. 1900 very common; 1952 uncommon. Decline coincident with agricultural changes.

Crested Flycatcher. 1900 very rare; 1952 common. It is difficult to believe that this flycatcher was "very rare" in 1900. It is more likely that its numbers have been in proportion to the amount of acceptable forest habitat available.

Phoebe. 1900 very common; 1952 uncommon. Decline probably because of agricultural changes, replacement of wooden bridges by concrete structures, and failure to recover completely from the winter mortality in 1940 in southern United States.

Alder Flycatcher. 1900 not found; 1952 rare; may have been present in 1900. One must know where to look for this flycatcher. At least six good Alder Flycatcher swamps in Andover region.

Prairie Horned Lark. 1900 not found; 1952 rare; present at Condon Airport (362 acres opened in 1934); 5-11 individuals annually, 1948-1952. This bird has invaded the East in the present century. Cause is probably ecological. Golf courses and airfields known to be ideal for the species.

Rough-winged Swallow. 1900 not found; 1952 rare. Has invaded New England during past twenty years.

Barn Swallow. 1900 very common; 1952 uncommon. Nesting sites in barns reduced by decline of agriculture.

Purple Martin. 1900 (?) no breeding record, few pairs probably breed; 1952 not found. Temporarily extirpated as breeder in much of eastern Massachusetts by cold rains of June, 1903.

Brown Thrasher. 1900 very common; 1952 uncommon. Decline almost certainly because of changes in agricultural practices with resultant ecological changes.

Hermit Thrush. 1900 very rare; 1951, 51 males; 1952 common. "Very rare" status in 1900 likely because of lack of observation in proper places. Increase in numbers has probably kept pace with increase in woodland breeding habitats.

Starling. 1900 had not yet reached Andover. 1952 very common.

Yellow-throated Vireo. 1900 locally common; 1952 not recorded. Last recorded in 1950. Habitats ample for this and Warbling Vireo. Cause of decline must be sought in other portions of its range.

Warbling Vireo. 1900 locally common; 1952 uncommon. Causes of decline probably not local.

Golden-winged Warbler. 1900 rare summer resident, but common migrant; 1951, 35 males; 1952, uncommon. It is difficult to see how this warbler could have been rare in 1900 with edge and other habitats made plentiful by wrecking of woods. No doubt the Golden-wing has increased as hayfields and pastures have grown up to scrub. With much footwork one could almost certainly find many more Golden-wings in the abundant good breeding habitats in Andover.

Nashville Warbler. 1900 locally common; 1952 rare. 3-8 birds annually 1946-52. Decline since 1900 possibly owing in part to forest changes, in part to causes not local.

Blackburnian Warbler. 1900 not found; 1952 uncommon, regular. Present in Parker Forest and Ward Reservation in tall white pines and hemlocks which were probably saplings in Ford's day. Sites he might have found are probably gone today.

Pine Warbler. 1900 common or locally common, abundant in pitch pines southward of Pomp's Pond and in Mr. Carter's grove; 1952 rare, in white pines. Carter's grove long since destroyed. Pines near Pomp's Pond have reseeded themselves after lumbering. This warbler may well increase here when these pitch pines approach maturity.

Prairie Warbler. 1900 not found; 1951, 71 males; 1952, common. Probably was present in 1900, since scrub was abundant. Has rapidly occupied burned-over tracts, such as Den Rock Park where fires occur annually, areas damaged by lumbering and power line operations, and the numerous scrubby hills, such as Boston and Clay Pit Hills.

Northern Water-Thrush. 1900 not found; 1952 rare but regular in deciduous swamps suitable also for Canada Warbler and Louisiana Water-Thrush. Probably has been here in small numbers indefinitely in the past.

Canada Warbler. 1900 very rare; 1952 common in numerous red maple - alder pockets and swamps within undisturbed mixed woods. I doubt that this bird was "very rare" in 1900. Has probably increased somewhat with growth of forests. One must know how and where to find Canadas and have the inclination so to do. I could probably have found many more of these warblers.

House Sparrow. 1900, swarmed like flies (E. T. Brewster); 1952, uncommon. Decrease owing to decline of the horse.

Bobolink. 1900 very common; 1952 uncommon. Abandonment of hayfields and development of truck farming have eliminated many good Bobolink fields. Decline may also be associated with heavy market shooting in the South during the early part of the present century.

Indigo Bunting. 1900 locally common; 1952 uncommon. Probably now on the increase. Slow to recover from disturbance of its niche.

Grasshopper Sparrow. 1900 not found; 1952 uncommon. 7-13 males at airport in North Andover annually, 1948-52. Perhaps overlooked in 1900. A long-grass bird, adversely affected by change from horse ecology, saved by the airport.

Vesper Sparrow. 1900 very common; 1952 uncommon. Remnant of a much larger population; appropriate habitat reduced by ecological changes, though probably not enough to afford the only explanation of decline. Causes may exist in other parts of the bird's range.

Field Sparrow. 1900 very common; 1952 uncommon. Has not occupied plentiful habitats as Prairie Warbler has done. Causes of decrease probably not local.

Summer residents in Andover region, June, 1952:

Pied-billed Grebe	2	Downy Woodpecker	18
Great Blue Heron	1	Eastern Kingbird	34
Green Heron	10	Crested Flycatcher	52
Black-crowned Night Heron	8	Phoebe	50
American Bittern	6	Alder Flycatcher	4
Least Bittern	2	Least Flycatcher	176
Canada Goose	2	Wood Pewee	54
Black Duck	11	Prairie Horned Lark	5
Wood Duck	8	Tree Swallow	41
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	Bank Swallow	30
Red-shouldered Hawk	11	Rough-winged Swallow	2
Broad-winged Hawk	2	Barn Swallow	25
Marsh Hawk	1	Cliff Swallow	2
Sparrow Hawk	4	Blue Jay	108
Ruffed Grouse	10	Crow	49
Ring-necked Pheasant	34	Black-capped Chickadee	106
King Rail	1	White-breasted Nuthatch	2
Virginia Rail	5	House Wren	56
Sora	4	Carolina Wren	1
Purple Gallinule	1	Long-billed Marsh Wren	36
Killdeer	15	Catbird	134
Woodcock	1	Brown Thrasher	28
Spotted Sandpiper	6	Robin	168
Herring Gull	35	Wood Thrush	140
Mourning Dove	22	Hermit Thrush	78
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	Veery	98
Black-billed Cuckoo	16	Bluebird	30
Barn Owl	1	Cedar Waxwing	15
Screech Owl	1	Starling	373
Great Horned Owl	1	Blue-headed Vireo	2
Whip-poor-will	6	Red-eyed Vireo	366
Nighthawk	3	Warbling Vireo	12
Chimney Swift	35	Black and White Warbler	138
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	4	Golden-winged Warbler	44
Belted Kingfisher	2	Nashville Warbler	4
Flicker	56	Yellow Warbler	116
Hairy Woodpecker	16	Myrtle Warbler	2

Black-throated Green Warbler	96	Cowbird	24
Blackburnian Warbler	18	Scarlet Tanager	112
Chestnut-sided Warbler	216	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	18
Pine Warbler	4	Indigo Bunting	20
Prairie Warbler	124	Purple Finch	26
Oven-bird	358	Goldfinch	54
Northern Water-Thrush	4	Red-eyed Towhee	190
Northern Yellow-throat	280	Savannah Sparrow	2
Canada Warbler	122	Grasshopper Sparrow	26
Redstart	174	Vesper Sparrow	14
House Sparrow	18	Chipping Sparrow	118
Bobolink	26	Field Sparrow	48
Meadowlark	68	White-throated Sparrow	4
Red-wing	400	Swamp Sparrow	54
Baltimore Oriole	132	Song Sparrow	336
Bronzed Grackle	50		
Total Species			105
Individuals per hour in forests			100
Individuals per hour at Airport and edges			104
Individuals per hour in open country			218

Another Black-Headed Grosbeak

BY BARTLETT HENDRICKS

The first definite record for Massachusetts of the Black-headed Grosbeak occurred in Pittsfield May 2. The normal range of the bird is west of central Nebraska and western North and South Dakota. Mrs. James M. Keith, a member of the Hoffmann Bird Club, heard a song of a bird she believed to be a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Because she knew the date was unusually early, she searched for the bird and soon found it with a group of Evening Grosbeaks in the trees near her feeder. The bird would not eat with its northern relatives but picked up sunflower seeds which they knocked to the ground beneath the second-story feeder.

Mrs. Keith had read the article in the April *Bulletin* on the Black-headed Grosbeak which appeared at Glastonbury, Connecticut, in January, and she was sure the visitor was the same species. She called Miss Edna Dunbar, an officer of the club, and Bartlett Hendricks, Science Curator of the Berkshire Museum, and they had excellent views of the bird, at rest and as it moved slowly about, from approximately twenty-five feet, and they also heard the bird sing. The song and calls were almost identical with those of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The bird was in immature male plumage and was remarkably obliging; it remained about the feeder the following day and was seen by Alvah W. Sanborn, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard E. Sweitzer, S. Waldo Bailey, and also by Miss Elizabeth Ball of Rutland, Vermont, and others. The grosbeak was not banded and hence could not have been the individual banded in Connecticut on January 26.

The Black-headed Grosbeak was last seen by Mrs. Keith on the afternoon of May 4. Edward Howe Forbush, in his *Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States*, mentioned that this species had been reported a few times in Massachusetts, but he added that none of the records were entirely satisfactory. Ludlow Griscom states that he knows of no previous authentic record for the State.

Nelson's Downy Woodpecker

BY FRANCIS H. ALLEN

The advice that professional ornithologists give to the amateurs is not to attempt to identify most subspecies by sight alone, and in general this is sound advice, but there are exceptions to most rules. Roger Tory Peterson, in the latest edition of his *Field Guide to the Birds*, makes a partial exception in the case of the Horned Larks, but on page 264 he follows the rule as to the Nelson's Downy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos pubescens nelsoni*) and, after giving its range as northwestern Canada, occasional in winter to northern New England, adds, "Larger, but not safely identifiable without collecting." He might have felt like qualifying that last statement if he had been with me in Cambridge on the 19th of April, 1953, when I had an opportunity for identification such as I suspect has been enjoyed by few ornithologists.

We have a pair of the common Downies (*D. p. medianus*) that pay frequent visits, one at a time, to the suet on a pear tree behind my house, and we have also a female Hairy Woodpecker that often visits the suet. But on this morning of the 19th while I was at breakfast a strange female Downy arrived at the suet just after the male of our pair, and there ensued a little tiff between the two, one on each side of the suet, the birds frequently pecking at each other, bill to bill. The newcomer was considerably larger than the male, and as I had seen in West Roxbury in January, 1942, a bird that I felt confident was a Nelson's Downy Woodpecker, I was prepared to check the points of identification. These, as given by Ridgway in his *Birds of North and Middle America*, are, "Similar to *D. p. medianus*, but decidedly larger, white of under parts, etc., purer, and black bars on lateral rectrices usually narrower or less numerous, sometimes nearly obsolete." They matched. In fact the outer tail feathers, which the bird was obliging enough to show, seemed to me to be quite immaculate. As the male and female were close together there for a minute or so within about forty feet of me and my binocular, I feel fairly certain that the stranger was a Nelson's. I might add that she was much smaller than the Hairy Woodpecker and, of course, lacked the long bill of that species.

Nelson's Downy Woodpecker has been identified by some of our keenest Massachusetts ornithologists within the last dozen years, but so far as I know they have had no such opportunity for a direct comparison with the familiar subspecies as I had on this occasion.

Coming Events at the Berkshire Museum

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

June 1-30. Exhibition. Works by Janet Jahn.

June 1-30. Annual Exhibition of Photographs by Berkshire Museum Camera Club.

June 3, 4. 10:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M. Exhibition, Hooked Rugs, Mrs. I. S. F. Dodd, Instructor.

June 6, 7. Annual Berkshire Camp-Out, Massachusetts Audubon Society.

June 9. 7:30 P.M. Registration and First Meeting - "Outdoor Bird Course For Late Risers." Bartlett Hendricks, Instructor.

June 11, 13, 16, 18, 20. Bird Course. Field Trips.

June 20. 7:45 P.M. Dance, Piano and Rhythmics Recital by Students of Miss Hazel Slater.

June 21. 6:00 A.M. Mt. Greylock Trip. Hoffmann Bird Club.

June 13. 8:00 P. M. Benefit Concert for Berkshire Garden Center.

From the Editors' Sanctum

Though he lived at a time when wildlife was generally considered inexhaustible, John James Audubon was one of the first Americans to recognize the potential danger to our wildlife resources from their unrestricted exploitation. Since Audubon's day much time and thought have been given to conservation, a multitude of protective statutes have been enacted, and much real progress has been made. But the education of the general public lags sadly through widespread apathy and lack of understanding of the economic and esthetic values involved. And the enforcement of the existing statutes for the protection of wildlife is often made extremely difficult through the action (or lack of action) of those whose duty it is to see to the carrying out of those laws, and by the indifference of many who should be leaders in formulating public policy in such matters.

Not long ago a newspaper published in southern Massachusetts was sent to our office. Under the heading "Strange Bird Invades South Dartmouth" was a photograph of three children holding a dead bird, and the article began with these statements:

A large vulture-like bird . . . was shot on an isolated South Dartmouth farm Sunday morning by a Dartmouth High School freshman who thought he was killing a crow . . . A naturalist and ornithologist . . . identified Robert's kill as a species of condor known as a California vulture . . . said there were only 15 of the birds on the North American continent . . .

The bird shown was very plainly a Black Vulture, a straggler in New England from the Southern States, with a wingspread of about 5 feet, while the Common Crow has a spread of only about 3 feet, and the California Condor an expanse of 7½ to 10 feet. Both the Vulture and the Condor are protected by State Law in Massachusetts; the Crow is *not* protected, but *Sunday hunting* is prohibited throughout the Commonwealth.

Aside from the violations of law, what an amazing ignorance is exhibited in this newspaper article! Imagine a farm boy, a high school freshman, who could not tell the difference between a Crow and a Vulture almost twice its size! Or a "naturalist and ornithologist" who could not tell a 5-foot Vulture from a 10-foot Condor on size basis alone! And then imagine the credulity (shall we call it that?) of the reporters and editors who swallowed the story and spread it over three columns of their newspaper, apparently without question. (It is only fair to say that when their error was drawn to the attention of the newspaper editors a correction was published promptly and in full.) And just how shall we classify the lack of alertness of the local game law enforcement officers who blandly overlooked such a widely publicized violation of our State laws?

Our Massachusetts Audubon Society courses in Conservation and Natural Science are carrying to many thousands of school children of the impressionable age the importance of basic knowledge of our natural resources and their need for intelligent conservation. They should be added to the curriculum of every school in the Commonwealth. Do the schools in *your* town receive this valuable service?

J. B. M.

Cherry Tree in June

By ADDIE BELL HOBBS

I was interested in the story "Birds in a Cherry Tree" by Frances L. Edwards, which appeared in the January, 1951 issue of the *Bulletin*, and I am sending a story of the birds observed in my cherry tree during June of that year. I cannot offer a complete list, for I was not watching the tree every hour of every day, but I did spend considerable time in full view of it.

The tree yields large, sweet, cream-colored fruit with a delicate flush on one side; that is, the fruit would be like that if the birds allowed any to ripen. But from the time the first cherry sets the birds take over, Robins leading the van.

Back in 1932 the Grange (Patrons of Husbandry) recommended the observance of the 200th anniversary of the birth of George Washington by the planting of trees, and at that time I set out my cherry, dedicating it to the exclusive use of the birds and remarking, perhaps irreverently, that I was replacing the tree which George cut down in his youth.

And what a joy that tree has been to me!

In this special June census, Robins came first and later brought their young, the half-ripened fruit apparently not in the least disturbing the digestive systems of the youngsters. There was also the Purple Finch, Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cedar Waxwings, and a pair of Catbirds. The Catbirds built their nest in a near-by syringa tangle. I do not know how many young Catbirds were raised from the five greenish-blue eggs, but I saw two little ones in the cherry diner several times.

I also saw there frequently the Warbling Vireo and the Red-eyed. The vireos seemed not to be interested in the cherries but were searching in the foliage for insects, while a Downy Woodpecker hitched his way up the tree trunk conscientiously carrying out his part in the work of insect control. Goldfinches, too, visited the tree. For some reason best known to themselves, they often congregated there and held lively song rehearsals, then flitted away, calling as they flew, not *pó-ta-tó*, but *cher-ry-o*.

I was surprised one day to see a Grackle striding along on a large branch, but I did not note any interest in the cherries. Rather, I think, he was up to one of his buffoonery tricks — pestering the birds that were enjoying a cherry lunch. I suspect the occasional visit of a Blue Jay was on the same order, for he would nose-dive into the tree, scattering the birds there, and then after a brief stop would fly away calling derisively, *Ya! Ya! Ya!*

But the Song and Chipping Sparrows were well-bred little fellows, perching on the outer branches and singing lustily, and never so much as pecking a cherry so far as we could observe. The Song Sparrow repeated over and over his *sweet, sweet, sweet, very merry cheer*, while Chippy stitched the warm June air with his sewing-machine melody. Two warblers I saw in the tree — the Yellow Warbler and the Redstart. They were not cherry eaters either but were interested in the little terminal twigs, gleaning insects there as well as about the clusters of stems of the fruit.

After the tree was stripped of the cherries, the birds turned their attention to the bush honeysuckles nearby, where juicy berries had already begun to redden in the sun.

Our Western Visitor

BY HELEN CAROLINE TATE



HOMAR CHASE, HAVERHILL GAZETTE

The Brookline Bird Club Studies the Green-tailed Towhee at Bradford.

Very early in March of 1953, about the fifth day, my husband and I were watching the birds on a new feeder Mr. Tate had made a few days before for our home in Bradford, Massachusetts. While we were observing various sparrows, as well as juncos and a Downy Woodpecker, a different-appearing bird came under the forsythia bush beside the feeder. We first noticed the way it scratched and then jumped back, also the white patch on the throat, which reminded us of a white beard.

Out came the bird books! After looking half through Chester Reed's *Bird Guide*, we came to the Green-tailed Towhee. It certainly looked like our bird, grayish green, with a chestnut-colored cap and a white throat. But after reading the range of this species, my husband said, "It just can't be."

"What else can it be?" I asked.

After we had watched the bird for several days, a friend of ours came to see our "different" bird. She agreed that it must be a Green-tailed Towhee and suggested we write to the Massachusetts Audubon Society, though we were not then members of the Society. I put off writing for a few days but finally sent a letter. Two days later Elmer Foye and his wife came to our house from the Ipswich River Sanctuary but failed to see the bird. Five minutes after they left, it appeared!

The next day we received our answer from the Audubon Society, saying that a field observer would visit us, and two days later Miss Dorothy Snyder, of the Society's teaching staff and Curator of Birds at the Peabody Museum in Salem, arrived. She saw the bird and her verdict was, "No question about it. It is the Green-tailed Towhee." She had observed the species in the Tucson Mountains of Arizona within the past year.

That Sunday morning Miss Snyder came again, with Ludlow Griscom, Robert T. Paine, 3rd, and Mrs. Frances Elkins. Mr. Griscom confirmed the identification as an immature Green-tailed Towhee, probably a male.



HOMAR CHASE, HAVERHILL GAZETTE

The Green-tailed Towhee was Closely Examined.

Word of our rare visitor spread like wildfire! One Saturday morning thirty-five members of a Brookline Bird Club field trip watched the bird and signed our "guest book." On another day Oscar Root, of the Brooks School in North Andover, came with a bird-banding trap and asked our permission to trap and band the bird. After four or five days of setting the trap and almost catching the wary bird twice, at 6:45 on Monday morning, April 6, it was finally captured. Immediately I telephoned Brooks School — I understand I got the headmaster out of bed, but in spite of that he was most polite — and reached Mr. Root, who drove over, attached Fish and Wildlife Service band No. 50-119860, and we and our local photographer took pictures. Then we let the bird go free, and in about an hour he was back feeding in our yard again, where he continued to be seen daily until May 6.

We are thrilled. So many people have come from far and near to see our western visitor, both young and old, and well over two hundred have signed our register, while others have seen the bird but left no record of their names.

On Tuesday, April 14, it snowed three or four inches. At 6:05 A.M. our Green-tailed Towhee was digging and scratching under the bush right where we first discovered him. Mr. Tate went out and shovelled the snow away, and back the towhee came, with a White-throated Sparrow and a Purple Finch. On Sunday, April 26, a male Eastern Towhee was feeding there with our Greentail.

This is the third record of the Green-tailed Towhee for Massachusetts, according to the authorities at the Massachusetts Audubon Society. The first was a visitor at a Northampton feeding station from December 31, 1945, to April 26, 1946. The second record was made by Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Paine at Weston, October 9, 1951.

Notes from Our Sanctuaries

PLEASANT VALLEY. In April everyone talked about the weather and no one did anything about it — more cold, more snow, more rain than we had in March. I'm sure if anything *could* have been done about the weather we all would gladly have tried to do it. However, in spite of the weather, it was an exciting month of new bird arrivals, drumming Grouse, V-formations of geese, and bursting buds.

On April 1 Pete, our now locally famous Woodchuck, came out of hibernation and made his appearance in our cellar. We believe his winter quarters were in the vicinity of the museum. It is impossible to know who was more excited by the reunion, Pete or ourselves. The friendship was renewed as if it had been dropped overnight instead of over a period from September to April. Except for being thin and having a moth-eaten appearance, he was the same old Pete and playfully nipped at our fingers and heels.

On April 3, as I went the rounds of my bird boxes to clear out the mouse nests and repair broken roofs, I stopped at the foot of an old cottonwood tree and, looking up at the flicker box, I remarked to my companion that nothing had ever used this box but that I might as well check it for squirrels anyway. As I slid the cover back I was more than a little surprised when I saw, crouched at the bottom of the box, a Saw-whet Owl which seemed to be on a nest. As I put my hand in, it crouched lower and angrily (?) snapped its beak. Then suddenly it jumped and drove its needlelike talons into my hand. After painfully extricating myself from this entanglement, I was able to see seven eggs in the bottom of the box. This was a find! The second nesting record in the Berkshires!! I would have fun photographing these.

This year the Cowbirds are much bolder and are even feeding from hanging feeders on the porch. One of our banded males has returned and nonchalantly walks around on the porch picking up fallen seed. On the 6th the females put in their first appearance, and courtship, with all its posturing and play-acting, began at once.

Never before have I heard so many Ruffed Grouse drumming from the hillsides of the valley. My fears of last winter that some of our partridges had been caught under an icy crust must have been unwarranted. Right on our front porch we can hear the "Thumpers" from several directions. Also, we can hear the Pileated Woodpeckers high up above Partridge Woods, where they nested several years ago, and they appear likely to nest again in the same general area. The Red-shouldered Hawks were back at their old nest site on the Great Hemlock Trail before April 11 at least.

On April 20 a two-to-three-inch blanket of snow covered Pleasant Valley, and the feeders were covered with birds — Purple Finches, Evening Grosbeaks, Cowbirds, Fox Sparrows, our first Towhee, and our last Redpoll. When we visited the Beaver ponds we found at least a dozen Hermit Thrushes all gathered together in a cattail marsh where the snow had melted away and left a little bare ground.

Mrs. John Nicholls, head of the Berkshire Membership Committee, held three busy meetings with her group in preparation for a drive for new members which was launched on Audubon Day, May 9.

ALVAH W. SANBORN

ARCADIA. April was just one shower this year. Rills ran everywhere at Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary to form temporary ponds and puddles that picturesquely dotted the landscape. Frogs laid eggs in one of them, to provide tadpoles for a Green Heron whose presence was a joy to visiting school-children later in the month. But buds did open, though reluctantly; the Tree Swallows inspected nest boxes each morning that a rift in the clouds appeared; the song of the House Wren was heard on the 28th; the Brown Thrasher sang magnificently from the 27th on; the Whitethroats brought life to the shrub borders on the 23rd; and, in general, the old familiar succession of spring sights and sounds, though somewhat behind schedule, followed their time-tested and time-honored flow into our consciousness. The sudden unleashing of pent-up energies in leaf-bud and retarded reproductive urges should be an experience to remember when several warm, sunny, May days open the throttle of summer wide!

April was a busy month at the Sanctuary. On each Saturday morning, a sizable group met with Bob Wood for a course in elementary bird identification. Two groups of Girl Scouts came over from South Hadley and a Cub Pack from Hampden Ponds, work was carried on with several Scouts on their Conservation Badges, and the spring visits of school classes that have been taking the Audubon Course in Natural Science and Conservation got under way. April is also the period during which additions are made to the bird food plantings. This year some plants were grown in our own nursery and some were bought with the help of a Friend of Arcadia, who also made possible the addition of several ferns and orchids to our trailsides and the addition, by the grafting method, of several new varieties to our collection of crabapples, which now totals thirteen species or varieties. Gifts of plants included a tulip tree from Mrs. John A. Sessions, of Hadley; dwarf purple willows and Oriental arborvitae from Ted Boulais, of South Hadley Falls; a *Chamaecyparis* from Earle H. Thomas, of Holyoke; eleven large-sized blueberry bushes from the Pomology Department of the University of Massachusetts, through the kindness of Dr. Arthur French; Clinton's fern, oak fern, and Culver's-root from the John Conkeys, of Ware; four species of barberry from Smith Botanic Gardens, through the kindness of its curator, W. I. P. Campbell; and a collection of hepatica, blue cohosh, Dutchman's breeches, red elder, and pagoda dogwood from Earle Thomas's summer place in South Newfane, Vermont. Gaps in the demonstration wildlife food and cover planting were filled with Norway spruce, rugosa rose, and Amur privet from stock furnished by the United States Soil Conservation Service. The Harlan Kelsey Nurseries at Boxford generously furnished us with a buckthorn, to bring our collection of this shrub to six. The E. Alexander Bergstroms saw our need for a trailer cart for the Gravely tractor and generously filled it, rounding out our tools for this indispensable aid.

During the month Frank Chrapliwy, of the education staff, spoke to the New Salem Grange and participated in a camp leadership training course sponsored by the Community Council of Springfield. Early in the month Sanctuary Director Mason gave an illustrated lecture to the Nature Club at the University of Massachusetts on the natural history of Cape Cod, and he is scheduled to talk about the Sanctuary to the Business and Professional Women's Club of Northampton and to the Northampton Grange early in May. The Sanctuary was host to fifty odd members of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association on May 2, who held a most successful meeting in spite of the

rain. Parker Reed, of Lexington, was featured with a mobile workshop on trap construction. Another feature was a trip around the trails to study the wide variety of wildlife food plants present.

Shooting with a camera is rewarding only if backed by at least a modicum of photographic know-how. It is therefore a pleasure to be able to announce that a course in elementary outdoor photography will be conducted at the Sanctuary on Saturdays, June 6, 13, and 20, from 2:00 to 2:30. Mr. Walter Sibley, of Westfield, a member of the Society and a professional photographer, will be the instructor. The course is open to anyone over the age of fourteen.

EDWIN A. MASON

IPSWICH RIVER. After the long siege of rainy weather in April, we basked like drowsy Woodchucks in the welcome sun of May 4 and then retreated again the 5th for another day of rain. Those two days brought in the vanguards of the warblers and other migrants and summer residents. Some seventy-four species were seen, including a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Least Flycatcher, Blue-headed Vireo, Parula, Magnolia, Golden-winged, and Prairie Warblers. A Snow Goose flew over with a flock of Canada Geese. And at night a Barred Owl called, a Whip-poor-will sang, and Snipe "winnowed" on the Bunker Meadows. Hundreds of White-throated Sparrows joined forces with many Towhees in the Hemlock Wood and how the leaves and needles flew about as they seemed to be trying, almost competitively, to outkick and outscratch each other. The drenching rain, the coal-black water of the swamp, and the intense green of the new foliage intensified the vivid colors of the warblers.

I would rather forget the miserable weather of April, with the six inches or so of snow that surprised us on the 14th. That day seventeen species came to the feeders. Several Robins took shelter in the woodshed, while overhead the Tree Swallows circled about completely bewildered. The Phoebe disappeared altogether. The month, however, brought in some interesting species. From the 5th on an American Coot could be seen in the middle marsh. The high water kept the American Bittern on the edges of the upland. Great Horned Owls called on the 9th. From the 10th on, and throughout April, many Ruby-crowned Kinglets danced about the bare thickets and created a particularly gay sight while feeding on insects picked off the blooming spicebush, *Lindera benzoin*. An Osprey hung about for several days, hovering over the marsh. We heard a Northern Water-Thrush on the 21st.

An immense Snapping Turtle tried to avoid my probing paddle as I paddled across the marsh. The uplands were gay with the bloom of the star magnolia, *Magnolia stellata*, the delicate and delightfully fragrant anise magnolia, *Magnolia salicifolia*, the Sargent cherries, *Prunus sargentii*, and the other heavily flowered Oriental cherries.

Apparently the Raccoons are experiencing a bout of distemper. Three of them, quite paralyzed, were brought to our attention and had to be put to sleep. With the co-operation of the United States Soil Conservation Service, we made a planting of multiflora rose for future use as a snowbreak and a source of bird food, and a hilltop planting of various conifers, which will prove of value as a wind screen. The month of May will be a busy one with hundreds of school children coming for a tour of the trails here. Even their parents that accompany them come back from the walk enthusiastic about the Sanctuary and hoping they have lost a pound or two from the exercise.

ELMER FOYE

"So Much For So Little"

Audubon Week

The celebration of Audubon Week, May 3-9, brought unprecedented opportunity for publicizing the program of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. Radio, newspapers, and television utilized a volume of material supplied them on birds and the activities of the Society. Two weeks of special noon walks in the Boston Public Garden and over one hundred bird walks throughout the State on Saturday, May 9, allowed us to interest many new friends in the cause we represent.

We have explored only a few of the possibilities such a week offers and believe we should begin *now* to plan for a greater Audubon Week in 1954, with special exhibits, programs, and features in all villages, towns, and cities of Massachusetts.

You can help! (1) Suggest to the program committees of your garden and civic clubs, scout groups, and schools that May 2-8 will be Audubon Week in 1954. (2) Suggest to your local banks and libraries and other local organizations that a special exhibit in May of birds and wildlife, bird-watching, or the work of the Massachusetts Audubon Society would be a fitting way to celebrate. (3) If a bird walk was not scheduled in your town this year, write to the Society and suggest a leader in your area. (4) Urge your local newspapers and radio stations to carry programs and features on nature and wildlife conservation during Audubon Week.

Our members should make known their interest in conservation education and nature recreation through the channels of public information. Let Audubon Week be a dramatic focal point to express this interest. If you have suggestions, or will assist in your town in promoting Audubon Week, 1954, write to Director of Public Relations, Massachusetts Audubon Society, 155 Newbury Street, Boston 16.

Contributing Members

- Bull, W. B., Sons Inc., Lenox
- **Burnett, Mrs. Robert M., Southborough
- **Claflin, Mrs. W. H., III, Belmont
- **Harwood, Mrs. Richard G., Cordaville
- **Maddock, Dr. Charlotte, Boxford
- *Rock, Clayton F., Topsfield
- *Warner, Mrs. H. E., S. Lincoln

Supporting Members

- *Alger, Mrs. Mildred B., Webster
- *Belden, Robert Fitch, Windsor, Conn.
- Brodie, Mrs. George E., Jr., N. Easton
- *Hawes, Mrs. Lincoln T., Fall River
- Jeffrey, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence,
E. Boston
- Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F., Canton
- Newhall, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A.,
Brookline
- *Newton, Mrs. Edwin M., Boston
- Nicholson, A. K., Wellesley Hills
- *Proctor, Mrs. George B., Marblehead
- Reed, Mr. and Mrs. Harley F., Waverley

- *Transferred from Active Membership
- **Transferred from Supporting Membership

- *Remon, Miss Marion E., Salem
- *Strickman, Leo, Fall River
- Thompson, Norman J., Needham Hgts.
- *Williamson, Miss Clara R., Brookline

Active Members

- Allen, Ronald, Salem
- Alvord, Mrs. Lincoln, Newtonville
- Austin, Mrs. Herbert P.,
Glastonbury, Conn.
- Barrett, Mrs. Leslie, New Haven, Conn.
- Barrett, Robert E., Jr., S. Hadley
- Barton, Mrs. Bernice, Eastham
- Beaudette, Mrs. Ruth G., Watertown
- Benjamin, Mrs. P. Allen, Wayland
- Bilodeau, Mrs. Harold, Groveland
- Bowmar, Mrs. Harris, Weymouth
- Bradley, Mrs. Herbert L., Groveland
- Briscoe, Frederick Y., Framingham
- Bromley, George O., Danvers
- Brown, Miss Margaret, Amherst
- Butler, C. M., Lebanon, N. H.
- Buzzell, Mrs. James C., Chelmsford
- Carlson, Mrs. Grace S., Brewster
- Carpenter, Mrs. Edward, Arlington
- Chadwick, Miss Louise B., Marblehead
- Cheney, Mrs. C. William, Wayland

- Chesley, John O., Jr., Boston
 Chistenson, Mrs. P. C., S. Weymouth
 Cogan, Mrs. David G., Belmont
 Colbert, Edward F., Salem
 Coleran, Dr. John E., Quincy
 Corbett, Mrs. Winfield L., Wakefield
 Criscitiello, Dr. Modestino G., Pittsfield
 Davis, Richard W., Hampton, N. H.
 De Blois, Dr. Elizabeth, Boston
 Derosier, Roland A., Providence, R. I.
 Dik, Mrs. Willard B., Wayland
 Dinsmore, Miss Amy L., Needham
 Dodd, Miss Rebecca, Bradford, Vt.
 Doherty, Mrs. James, Hamden, Conn.
 Dow, Mrs. Richard R., Dover
 Erwin, Mrs. J. J., Wayland
 First Unitarian Church Sunday School,
 Sharon
 Flynn, William J., Milton
 Gorin, James, Newton Ctr.
 Gorman, Miss Helen F., Beverly
 Grandin, Mrs. Isabella, Boston
 Grierson, Mrs. Stanley, Katonah, N. Y.
 Hall, Mrs. Gordon R., Chestnut Hill
 Hand, Mrs. Marshall H., E. Walpole
 Haskell, Mrs. Willard, Greenfield
 Hayden, Miss Bettyanne, Cambridge
 Higgins, Mrs. Donald E., Cotuit
 Hopkinson, Mrs. Bertha, Merrimac
 Hughes, Mrs. Alton B., S. Hadley
 Hunt, Calvert C., Jr., E. Lynn
 Jenkins, Mrs. John F., Newton Hlds.
 Jenney, Mrs. Leonard T., Newton Hlds.
 Johnston, Raymond H., Northampton
 Kelsey, Mrs. Erwin B., Hamden, Conn.
 Kenrick, Mrs. C. V., Wrentham
 Knowles, Mrs. Livonia E.,
 North Hampton, N. H.
 Kuhn, Mrs. Andrew C., Westwood
 Laberge, John V., Lynn
 Larkin, Mrs. Kenneth T., Wayland
 Lawson, Arnold, Jr., Salem
 Lawson, Miss M. Adele, Wellesley Hills
 Lukens, Mrs. Alan F., Marblehead
 Luscomb, Miss Marian, Marblehead
 Madden, Mrs. William C., N. Scituate
 Mapes, Mrs. E. S., N. Weymouth
 McCabe, Mrs. John, Branford, Conn.
 McDougald, Mrs. C. B., Wrentham
 Miner, Mrs. Theodore, Bath, N. Y.
 Murray, John, Jr., Charlestown
 Nelson, Mrs. Mildred, Westboro
 New England Sanitarium and Hospital,
 Melrose
 Nichols, Mrs. William, Waltham
 Novak, Mrs. Louis C., Marblehead
 O'Connor, Matthew I., Northampton
 Okuro, Mrs. Arnold R., Marston's Mills
 Ortolani, Mrs. Francis, S. Duxbury
 Peebles, Mrs. D. Meade, Buzzards Bay
 Phillips, Mrs. John, Lynn
 Pittman, Dr. James A., Boston
 Pratt, Mrs. T. D., Andover
 Rawding, Mrs. Reid A., Weston
 Richardson, Roger K., Attleboro
 Rickarby, Miss Eileen F., Dorchester
 Risdon, Mrs. Sidney F., Waltham
 Runnette, Miss Helen V., Marblehead
 Rust, Mrs. Clifford W., Newton Hlds.
 Ryder, Miss Martha E., Reading
 Scott, Miss Marion L., Worcester
 Shattuck, Mrs. C. H., Wellesley Hills
 Shumway, Herbert D., Greenfield
 Simpson, Ralph F., Weymouth Hgts.
 Skinner, Mrs. James N., Marblehead
 Sloan, Miss Dorothy, Ashmont
 Smith, Julius T., Westport
 Smith, Miss Marion L., Boston
 Sprague, Miss Elizabeth C., Salem
 Stewart, Mrs. Francis J., Waltham
 Stewart, Mrs. O. W., Hyde Park
 Stoddard, Mrs. Woodworth, Groveland
 Summerville, Alan O., Marblehead
 Swain, Mrs. Richard, Wellesley Hills
 Sylvia, Frank F., Jr., Belmont
 Taloumis, Miss Thalia E., Salem
 Tatlock, Mrs. Hugh, Northampton
 Taylor, Warren O., Belmont
 Thisland, Miss Olga L., W. Lynn
 Thompson, Mrs. George, Waltham
 Tirrell, Mrs. Ralph, Cohasset
 Torrey, Mrs. John, S. Weymouth
 Travis, Mr. and Mrs. Edward F.,
 Medford
 Turner, Mrs. Clyde R., Medfield
 Twomey, David, Wellesley Hills
 Tyler, Mrs. Harry R., Salem
 Wheatland, David A., Cambridge
 Wheatland, Miss Martha, Cambridge
 Wheeler, Ralph L., Newton Ctr.
 Whelton, Lt. Col. William A., Milton
 White, Mrs. Eva Whiting, Waban
 Williams, Mrs. Theron W., Boston
 Wingett, Miss Joy, Dedham
 Wood, Carl W., Winchester
 Wood, Mrs. W. Parker, Groveland
 Wright, Mrs. Harold H., Waltham
 Wynne, Mrs. Harold, New Haven, Conn.

What does their membership mean to these new members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society?

It means participation in a movement of great value to the people of their communities, their State, the country as a whole.

For this Society is actively carrying on a great educational project, implanting in the minds of thousands of school children something of the importance of the conservation of our natural resources and the preservation of our natural beauties, geological, botanical, and zoological.

Thumbnail Sketches of Our Directors



MRS. DONALD C. ALEXANDER, the former Ruth Batchelder, of Lynn, and a graduate of the Massachusetts School of Art, is our interior decorating consultant on the Board of Directors. Back in the late 1930's she helped dust the cobwebs from the basement quarters of the Society in the old Museum of Natural History and brought to those unpromising surroundings a semblance of order and attractiveness. When the Society moved, in 1944, to its new headquarters at 155 Newbury Street, it was Mrs. Alexander who planned the

decorating of the various offices. Later, when Moose Hill museum and office needed to be redecorated, she was again pressed into service, and, similarly, when the Ipswich River Sanctuary was acquired in 1951 her advice was sought in the revamping of the headquarters building.

Mrs. Alexander's interest in the Society antedates her election to the Board in 1939, and her efforts have not by any means been confined to making the properties of the Society attractive to visitors. She has served capably for many years as chairman of the annual meeting committee of the Board, also on its lecture committee in arranging programs for the Audubon Nature Theatre. She has always been a promoter of the educational work of the Society and was responsible for the introduction of the Audubon conservation courses in the schools of Nahant, where the Alexanders reside.

Just before World War II she was married to Donald C. Alexander, long active in the Essex County Ornithological Club and who, following war service, was for several years treasurer of the Society. The Alexanders have two children, Donald C., Jr. and Ruth, who, like their parents, are lovers of the out-of-doors and are slated for some fine camping experiences.

Mrs. Alexander continues her professional work in interior decorating, with headquarters at 69 Newbury Street, Boston, and also finds time in her busy life to participate in Nahant community affairs, including the Parent-Teacher Association, Red Cross, and Community Fund, and to serve the Society as a member of both the Nahant Thicket and Ipswich River Sanctuary Advisory Committees. From their attractive home in Nahant, the Alexanders can keep a weather eye on the condition of the Nahant Thicket, which is just a stone's throw away, and they are able to interest local groups and members in keeping up the trails and the record of birds found there during the year.

If the Angler's Patience is Lauded
The Bird-watcher's Patience should be Roundly Applauded

A Birding Day in Southeastern Alaska

BY JERRAM L. BROWN

As I watch the Alaskan summer of 1952 pass slowly by, I think of my birding friends in the East and cannot refrain from wondering if they would really like to trade places with me as much as they may think. It is not a warm New England summer but a cold, damp, and often rainy (200 inches annually) Pacific coast phenomenon which chills one to the marrow when it is cold and damp but is idyllically pleasant when it is sunny and calm. For my part I would relish a little sun or a good hot stove at the moment and some of the comforts of civilization, such as a newspaper, hot running water, and some music; but I realize that this life in an unpopulated section of the continent has some positive features which appeal to those who must stay at home away from wild country; and so I am only too happy to tell you about a few of them. First let me describe my surroundings.

My tent is pitched on Kosciuszko Island, Token Bay, one of the myriad islands composing the Alexander Archipelago of the panhandle of Alaska, that narrow strip of territory which stretches southeast along the coast and separates the northern section of British Columbia from the open Pacific and its fog-producing Japan Current. It is a tiny islet on the seaward side of the long, mountainous strip of land called Prince of Wales Island, which shelters the salmon-canning town of Ketchikan. I am summering on the inside of Token Bay, just a few miles from the ocean. The shore line is rocky with never a sandy beach, and the tall Sitka spruces and western hemlocks clothe every hill and mountain in sombre green right down to the rocks and intertidal zone, which is covered with the same familiar seaweed as the Maine coast and edged above the rocks with scattered strips of tall grass and here and there a few glossy Sitka alders. Needless to say, the invertebrate marine life is abundant, and the sockeye, humpbacked, coho, and dog salmon are running up the streams to spawn in the same waters where thick schools of Dolly Varden trout may be seen in the pools.

Now and then I meet a small Black Bear wandering contentedly past the still unripe salmonberries which grow in the spots of sunshine along the streams, or hear one or two Black-tailed Deer stamping a warning to their unseen companions. When I am lucky I see a Mink sitting on his haunches peering at me with detached curiosity as I approach his stream in my boat (there are no paths or trails), and frequently I see an Otter busily catching a meal in the brackish water at the mouth of the stream. White-footed Mice, *Peromyscus maniculatus hylaeus*, and Long-tailed Shrews, *Sorex obscurus longicauda*, live in the moss-draped stumps and fallen logs. There are other mammals too, but now I should like to describe a day set aside for birding.

It was the third week in July and the land birds were almost through with their song period, for their full-size young had begun to wander and their instinct to sing was fast fading. But at 4:30 A.M. the Olive-backs (Russet-backed Thrush is the subspecies) were singing and soon the Hermit Thrushes would begin their intermittent choruses in which they still indulged for a good part of the day. I stuck my head out between the tent flaps into the cold moist air and saw that the sun had already begun to scatter the blanket of fog which descends just before dawn every day.

The day before, I had seen the first human beings in ten days and had stored up enough enthusiasm from the visit to make today's trip to the abandoned marble quarry several miles away at the seaward end of the bay. While pancakes and bacon were cooking, an inquisitive Rufous Hummingbird paused to inspect a bright red-colored can outside, then darted inside the tent, hovered for a quick second around the red of a cereal box, and disappeared. A Winter Wren was singing his familiar song before venturing toward my camp to begin scolding again. The Western Flycatcher, *Empidonax difficilis*, had left off his singing soon after dawn but still continued his fly-snapping exuberance punctuated by a snappy *pewit* call note.

As I left my islet in the 16hp. outboard, the ever-present pair of Northern Bald Eagles lurched out from their sprucetop watchtowers to observe my actions more closely, piping shrilly and wheeling a hundred feet over my head. The sky was now blue and clear, but I had to buck both tide and wind to get to my destination.

For ten days I had not seen a gull, since it was still the breeding season and they remained pretty close to the nesting grounds. There had been only a few water birds, except for the fifty or sixty barred brown Marbled Murrelets, the few Common and Black-throated (Pacific) Loons, and an occasional American Merganser.

Finally I saw a large flock of gulls floating on the water and standing on a colorful seaweed-and-barnacle-covered rock. Two sizes were in evidence, the large pearly Glaucous-winged Gulls and the more numerous Short-billed Gulls, the latter quite like diminutive Herring Gulls in appearance. I had especially wanted to see Short-billed Gulls, but after studying them for awhile I discovered that almost half of them had black legs and a few had black spots behind their eyes in much the same fashion as the Bonaparte's Gull. Not having been prepared for these thirty to forty Kittiwakes several miles inland from the ocean, I was happily surprised to see them, though embarrassed at not even having considered the possibility at first. Since that day I have been seeing all three species regularly and still have trouble separating the less numerous Kittiwakes from the Short-bills until they come close enough to reveal their wing patterns — this despite the shorter wings and faster wing-beat of the Kittiwake.

At the quarry I was not concerned much with the thought that it had been abandoned many years ago because of competition from Italian marble quarries; I was busy investigating the second growth vegetation and the unusual abundance of deciduous trees and bushes scattered among the upshooting red cedars and spruces. In the middle of the day Olive-backed Thrushes were still singing lustily, and a small party of crossbills flew unseen, chipping, overhead. There were Orange-crowned Warblers (subspecies, Lutescent Warbler) and Oregon Juncos in the brush, more Winter Wrens, and some Golden-crowned Kinglets in the dark young spruces. A pair of Ravens croaked and kept up a medley of odd sounds that I was thankful to hear instead of the noisy flock of Crows which frequented the shores and streams by my own camp. Further squeaky noises, of my own making, lured a flock of Chestnut-backed Chickadees to close range, only to have them immediately dispersed by five screaming, dark blue and black Steller's Jays.

When I climbed up one of the big piles of ten-foot marble blocks which made the former wharf, in order to look at the birds resting on the quiet water of the sheltered harbor, I found about fifty Common Murres (California

Murre) and over a hundred Marbled Murrelets diving, talking among themselves, and crying piercingly at the incoming and outgoing streams of birds. There were also several Pigeon Guillemots and over a dozen American Mergansers. But the surprise of the day came from the immature Mockingbird which sat below me on a log in the open sun squinting at me against the light. Because Peterson puts its northern breeding range at central California and southeastern Oregon, I was quite surprised, to say the least.

Tired of staring at the unexpected southerner, I climbed back to my boat through the tangled brush beneath the *cheeping* of some Pine Siskins cavorting in the near-by evergreens. Once out on the bay again, I found that the gull flock had come to rest on some rocks close to my tent. Upon landing there, I discovered a dozen Surfbirds and seven Black Turnstones on their way south but still in bright summer plumage.

The Townsend's Warblers were still singing when I returned, and from the evening shade of the mountainside opposite my camp I heard the distant, enchanting drone of the Varied Thrush, a unique bird of the Pacific Northwest. After sundown the Common and Black-throated Loons whooped up an uninhibited chorus of shrieks and howls. When I emerged from my tent for a last look at the cold calm night, the Marbled Murrelets had already begun their nocturnal household activities still unbeknown to science. A wolf howled twice as I crawled into my sleeping bag content with an interesting day's birding among the wild islands of southeast Alaska.

Wood Ibises

Overhead flying, one solitary bird —
long neck and longer legs outstretched,
black-bordered wings spread wide —
flapping, sailing,
flapping, sailing,
bared to shafts of sunset from the west,
target for a hunter's gun below,
but for the moment free and unaware,
flapping and sailing on the soft mid-air.
Below, on the muddy bank of a creek,
four of his fellow creatures stand,
bareheaded, motionless:
four old hunched-up men
peering at themselves in the water.
Is it their image holds them as in dream,
or something lurking darkly in the stream?
A shadow falls upon them,
upon their shadow in the water;
but they do not stir,
do not hearken to the hoarse cry above,
the call of their own to come away from shadows,
to thrust out legs, dark heads, and, pair by pair,
spread black-tipped wings and ride the lifting air.
Still, still they stand — still —
peering down, with down-curved bill,
hands in pockets, hid from ken:
four old bare-headed, hunched-up men.

MARION E. BEECHER

Evening Grosbeak Movements

BY CHRISTOPHER M. PACKARD

Though I am not prepared, nor do I feel qualified, to present any profound thesis on migratory causation in the Evening Grosbeak, I do feel obliged to add my thoughts to the explanations which have been set forth time and time again since 1894, and currently reiterated by B. M. Shaub in a recent issue of the *Bulletin of the Massachusetts Audubon Society*.

There can be little question that food and population are prime factors in determining the intensity of migration. This holds true, not only for the Evening Grosbeak, but for other birds, mammals, animals, insects, and even, to some extent, human beings. So let us at the beginning accept the established importance of dynamics and food.

Now first let us consider the east-west migration of the Evening Grosbeak. First of all, this is not especially exceptional. A number of other species have the same migrational route; it is not peculiar to the Evening Grosbeak. However, I would not underestimate the extent or importance of this east-west migration. At present the published records in the literature seem to point to a fairly regular and strong north-south migration in this species during the early part of the 20th century. There then appears to have been a change in this bird's route, and it certainly adopted an east-west migration which carried it into New England time and time again in the past. Today the bird is apparently reverting to a north-south (in this case northeast-southwest) route necessarily followed by most all eastern migratory birds.

Now the point to be made is this: has the entire summering population of this species shifted towards the East? There is irrefutable evidence that there is a large summering population extending from Ontario across Quebec, into Maine, and as far east as New Brunswick, where we have a record of adults feeding young *in the nest* as early as 1940. The extent of this population is just now coming to light. However, the true importance of this establishment will necessarily be dependent upon nesting population reports further west in what was formerly this species' summer stronghold. On this point we need more data before arriving at any definite conclusions. However, should this data indicate that a substantial part of the population has moved eastward, I think we must assume that the east-west substantiated migratory route of a number of decades ago was certainly a major route, and one which carried the bulk of the Evening Grosbeak population.

Concerning food as the sole incentive to this species' migratory movements, it is hardly fair to compare the Evening Grosbeak with birds such as swallows and hummingbirds. Let us rather make comparison with some members of the arboreal group to which this species belongs. Chickadees, Pine Grosbeaks, crossbills, nuthatches, and many more are not dependent upon annual southward migration to secure food.

It is true that we have often witnessed mass incursions of the arboreal family, but when one begins to probe into these movements one or two puzzling questions do come to light. Why it is that in a year when there was practically no arboreal invasion of any sort (i.e. 1915-16 or 1921-22) the Evening Grosbeak should suddenly pour forth beyond its usual range in unprecedented numbers? And why is it that at times when other species over-

run our boundaries we are hard pressed to get any reports of Evening Grosbeaks? Let us grant that the food of this species is peculiar in many ways and differs slightly from that of its cousins, but still the food is not so specialized that a complete failure can account for a mass Evening Grosbeak movement, *with no corresponding arboreal movement*. And let us not lose sight of the fact that we are dealing with an arboreal species, one that is subject to incursion rather than definite migration.

It seems to me that food is not the only answer to this species' incursions, and that if this answer is ever found it will prove to be very complex. It might be wise to probe deeper into the so-called "crazy seasons" of the partridge, and perhaps look into the possibility of cyclic influences in other birds. Many of our common species have strong annual migratory urges, and we are now discovering that for many of them these are dependent on factors other than food and population. The work on photoperiods has recently advanced at an extraordinary rate, and students are beginning to probe deeper and deeper into possible causative factors. And, lastly, let us not overlook the homing instinct, which remains one of the phenomenal aspects of migration. Is it that certain birds are gifted with such instincts and strong migratory urges while others are devoid of the same? Offhand, it would appear more logical to assume that all were more or less endowed with these gifts, but that in some these instincts and urges have become repressed for one reason or another. This is not saying that the instinct is entirely lost. Could there not be a "migratory-incursion urge" which becomes manifest every so often; one which in many ways would correspond to strong annual migratory urges?

Population is certainly an important factor, and one which, in connection with food, will necessarily account for a certain pressure sufficient to cause a movement of segments of a population. The interrelationship of these two has been thoroughly investigated by L. M. Loomis. But what of this increased population? Has the over-all population of the Evening Grosbeak increased? Are there now more Evening Grosbeaks than there were one hundred, fifty, or even twenty-five years ago? It appears as if this may indeed be the case, but how can we definitely say yes or no when we have no figures with which to compare the present population, and, for that matter, no means of accurately determining this population? We must not overlook the increased interest in birds, the increased number of publications in which data can be put on record, and the increased practice of doing so. In 1892 Dr. Amos W. Butler said concerning the reports in the middle of the nineteenth century: "Doubtless had there been the number of observers at those times as there are now, we should have learned more of the extent of these dispersals." Today when I go back in search of records I am inclined to repeat his statement word for word, as did Norton in 1913.

Food and population are important. But are they the sole answer to the many questions (and in my mind these questions are indeed puzzling) related to this species' movements? When the Evening Grosbeak is subject to incursion it is not a loitering movement. Just last winter (1951-52) we had a splendid example of a true incursion of real magnitude. Were the birds stopping here and there depleting one food supply and then moving on to the next? No, they rushed southward in a mad dash in wave after wave. Food and population probably had some effect, but that does not exclude the possibility of other causative factors which may indeed be of a major significance.

On January 15 we find a Catbird, six Towhees, and one Brown Thrasher. To our way of thinking a Catbird or Brown Thrasher in January is just as exciting as a Blackburnian Warbler or Scarlet Tanager in May. Song Sparrows have been rare indeed this winter until February 18, when we find a flock of nineteen feeding on a dry, sparse, closely cropped weedy lawn, and we added there three more near by, making a total of twenty-two for the day. Have they come from farther north, or are they moving in from the South, and why have we had so few this winter when usually every weed patch shelters one or two throughout the winter? These are some of the questions that arise in the mind of every bird-watcher.

Belmont Hill Boys Go Birding

BY REGINALD HEBER HOWE II Class of 1952, Belmont Hill School

On Saturday, February 14, 1953, Mr. Test and Mr. Gregg, masters at Belmont Hill School, took a group of boys to Newburyport and Mystic Lake. The boys who went were Chris Egan, Ned Densmore, Dave Trilling, Dave Hamilton, Louis Carr, Bill Schaffer, Donald Devine, Jim Barron, Parker Ladd, Jim MacMahon, Mike Rice, and Reg Howe.

Once in Newburyport, we went to many places. We first went to the Chain Bridge. There was not much to be seen there, except for four European Cormorants sitting on a cement pile. However, there were some American Mergansers and Golden-eyes. We also saw a Bald Eagle.

Next, Mr. Test guided us to the Artichoke. It was then that we saw Redpolls, Pine Siskins, and Goldfinches. In those two places we certainly saw three excellent species. We saw, too, a Rough-legged Hawk.

We then sought the Brown School; it was our hope to see the Mockingbird. It was not to be seen either time we visited.

After that we went to the Yacht Club. There were numerous Redpolls there, too. When we passed a marsh, we came to the Sportsman's Lodge. At that point we made the best find of the day, three male and three female White-winged Crossbills. While at the Yacht Club, we spotted many more Golden-eyes and Red-breasted Mergansers. There were also Buffle-head, a European Black-headed Gull, a Kumlien's Gull, and a Great Black-backed Gull.

On our way to Plum Island, Mr. Gregg spotted a Bald Eagle. There were also about ten Horned Larks. Once at Plum Island, we ate. While we were eating, Mr. Test, with the aid of a telescope, spotted a single Common Loon and a dozen Horned Grebes. After lunch we visited the Coast Guard Station.

At the Coast Guard Station there were Iceland Gulls and a Kumlien's Gull. The Horned Grebe were also seen from there.

Our next stop was the Lynnfield Marshes. The only bird we saw there was an immature Red-shouldered Hawk.

Last, but certainly not least, was Mystic Lake. Right away we set up the telescope. There were American, Red-breasted, and possible Hooded Mergansers, Coot, Buffle-head, Green-winged Teal, Canvas-back, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Old-squaw, and Golden-eye. The Coot and Green-winged Teal were over near the Winchester Country Club. The Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, and Canvas-back were all together in a group. The other birds were in a mass in the center of the open water, which was near the Club House on the right hand side of the lake.

Bovey Bird Films Now Available for Organizations

Bird Nesting Time. Running time, 10 minutes (360 feet)

Waterfowl in the Spring. Running time 10 minutes (360 feet)

Birds of the Prairie. Running time, 10 minutes (368 feet)

The Minneapolis-Moline Company, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, makers of modern machinery, has entered the field of conservation as a public service and good will gesture by loaning, free of charge, these three short films in color. The photographer is Martin Bovey, of Concord, which is enough to say to members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society who have enjoyed his public lectures in Boston and throughout the State. Also, the commentary to these sound films was written by him, which is important from an educational point of view. Everything Mr. Bovey does has the hallmark of excellence, from his superlative diction reflected in the sound tract to his portrayal of birds by the most advanced camera techniques.

Bird Nesting Time presents thirteen North American birds busy about their nesting activities. These are not just routine shots of birds feeding young, but the more unusual bits of bird behavior are included, such as the sequence of a Tree Swallow that had to search for white feathers to line the nest because his mate would not accept feathers of the Rhode Island Red hen which were scattered all about near the nesting site. Outstanding examples of bird construction of course include the artfully woven hanging nest of a Baltimore Oriole and the lichen-covered nest of the Hummingbird. The important educational point made is that birds are truly guardians of our food supply because of the quantity of destructive insects they consume.

Waterfowl in the Spring shows Mr. Bovey at his best, since he is pre-eminently a wildfowl photographer, and we know the water birds to be his favorites. Exciting angle views of teal, Pintail and other dabblers, as well as swans, and even the grebes and a Marsh Hawk, capture the real feeling of the out-of-doors. In conclusion, he earnestly exhorts sportsmen to go out in spring to hunt waterfowl with field glasses or a camera rather than to depend on fall shooting for their enjoyment. It is almost as though one were asked to lift his eye from the gun sight and really look at these birds to see how beautiful nature has made them.

Birds of the Prairie portrays shore birds, Common and Black Terns and White Pelicans in the nesting season, when the landscape is verdant and in blossom. They are not actually birds of the prairie but of the Great Plains, or inter-montane basin of the West, much of it sagebrush habitat. As in the other films, one is brought to recognize that beauty and the fun of seeing something interesting in the wild world can be a resource and as much a tangible piece of goods as a dead duck in the hand.

It is a praiseworthy trend that large private companies are using funds for this kind of education rather than leaving instruction concerning wildlife to sports-minded parents who think the only duty toward a son is to teach him how to use a gun and bring back a bag limit to prove that he is as good as the next fellow. All the films have the added caption: "A true sportsman is the farmer's friend."

ROBERT L. GRAYCE

FOUND!

A gold wedding ring was recently picked up on a trail at Ipswich River Sanctuary which was inscribed with initials and the date 3-25-46. The owner may get it by communicating with Elmer P. Foye, Director of Ipswich Sanctuary, Topsfield.

Cape Campout — September 11 - 13

The annual Cape Campout conducted by the Massachusetts Audubon Society has been scheduled for the week end of September 11-13, 1953. An Audubon field trip, by automobile, to Ipswich Beach has been scheduled for Sunday, August 23. Full details of both events will appear in the *August Newsletter*.

Another New Bird for the List

In a recent school quiz given by one of our Audubon teachers, a bird's appearance and habits were outlined and its name requested. One pupil's reply to the question was the single cryptic word, "Butermorroreol".

Will all of you others who know this colorful songster please raise your right hands? Thank you.

(If you do not recognize this bird, look elsewhere on this page for its name.)

Fall Meeting of Bird-Banding Association

The next field meeting of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association is scheduled for Saturday, September 26, at the home of the president, Dr. Charles H. Blake, Woodland Way, Lincoln, Massachusetts.

News of Bird Clubs

On Sunday, June 7, the SOUTH SHORE BIRD CLUB will enjoy an all-day trip to Plymouth Beach to see the tern colony and shore birds. The leader will be Edgar Lundin (Hingham 6-2416) and the trip will leave at 7:00 A.M. from the parking space behind the Adams Academy, Quincy.

On Saturday, June 6, the FORBUSH BIRD CLUB of Worcester has scheduled a field trip to Paxton, with Lloyd Jenkins as leader. On June 13 and 14 there will be a week-end field trip, camp, and cookout at Barre, with headquarters at Cook's Canyon Sanctuary.

The HOFFMAN BIRD CLUB of Pittsfield is planning a Mt. Greylock trip on Saturday, June 20, from 6:00 A.M. to noon.

The June program of the WATERBURY NATURALIST CLUB of Connecticut includes the annual banquet of the club on June 2, at which time C. Russell Mason, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society, will present the popular color film "Audubon's America." A field trip and cookout at one of the State Parks is scheduled on June 6, with Miss May Reing as leader, and there will be a week-end trip, June 27-28, to Cathedral Pines, West Rindge, New Hampshire, with Miss Helen Stoddard in charge.

"Butermorroreol" is a phonetic rendering of "Baltimore Oriole."

Next BULLETIN in October

We remind our members that with the June issue of the *Bulletin* publication is discontinued until October. An announcement of coming events will, however, be mailed to all members in the *August Newsletter*.

**BIRD PAINTINGS BY WILLIAM C. DILGER
CORNELL UNIVERSITY NEW YORK**

We are proud to have the privilege of presenting paintings of land birds and water fowl done by Cornell University's Curator of Birds, Bill Dilger. These paintings are done in tempera — an opaque water color — and would be a welcome addition to any bird-lover's home.

Average Size - 11" x 14"

\$50.00

BEACH AND BASS SHOP

Bill and Carol Snow

LITTLE COMPTON

RHODE ISLAND

MIGRANTS or RESIDENTS

are brought to your finger tips with these

**COATED
7 x 50 BINOCULARS**

You'll add new names to your list, identify strangers at a distance with these exceptionally priced, powerful, wide-vision glasses. Perfect in the field, wonderful for close-up study of garden nesters. Their extra large 50 MM lenses are coated for extreme clarity and brilliance. Individual eye adjustments give perfect definition with strong 7-power magnification. Complete with handsome hard leather case and carrying straps.



*The Greatest Value
We Have Ever Offered*

\$35.00 Complete
plus 20% Federal Tax

Mail and phone orders filled postpaid

STODDARD'S

374 WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

HAcock 6-4187

Open
Monday
Evenings

Opposite
Bromfield
Street

New England Headquarters for Bausch & Lomb and All Quality Binoculars

Erratum

A most unfortunate omission occurred in the printing of Dr. Walcott's article, "Some Trends in City Bird Life from 1870 to 1940," on page 189 of the May *Bulletin*. We have therefore reprinted his Table I with the omitted paragraphs and suggest that all interested cut this out and paste it in its proper place on page 189. Our humble apologies to all.

Table I

	1860-1873	1900-1904	1940-1943
More than 5 pairs	Chimney Swift Tree Swallow Robin Chipping Sparrow	4	
4-5 pairs	Least Flycatcher House Wren Yellow Warbler Baltimore Oriole Song Sparrow	5	House Sparrow 1 Starling House Sparrow 2
2-3 pairs	Bluebird Cedar Waxwing Purple Finch Goldfinch	4	1 Robin Chimney Swift Robin 2
1-2 pairs	Wood Pewee Yellow-throated Vireo Red-eyed Vireo Redstart	4	Chimney Swift Least Flycatcher Crow Yellow Warbler Redstart Baltimore Oriole Goldfinch Chipping Sparrow 8 Blue Jay 1
1 pair	Yellow-billed Cuckoo Black-billed Cuckoo Ruby-throated Hummingbird Flicker Kingbird Catbird Warbling Vireo Bobolink Indigo Bunting	9	Yellow-billed Cuckoo Black-billed Cuckoo Flicker Catbird Red-eyed Vireo Warbling Vireo Rose-breasted Grosbeak 7 Screech Owl Flicker House Wren Catbird Red-eyed Vireo Chipping Sparrow Song Sparrow 7
Frequent Transients	Green Heron Black-crowned Night Heron Barn Swallow Grackle Cowbird	5	Black-crowned Night Heron Sparrow Hawk Herring Gull Nighthawk Ruby-throated Hummingbird Downy Woodpecker Crow Black-capped Chickadee White-breasted Nuthatch Wood Thrush Grackle Goldfinch 12
Irregular	Blue Jay	1	Kingbird Wood Pewee Barn Swallow Cedar Waxwing Purple Finch 5 Baltimore Oriole 4
Totals	32	25	28

A STAR is BORN!

Bird's Dinner Pail

Here is the answer to many requests that we have received for a "hang anywhere" feeder that all birds will use. Bird's Dinner Pail is unique in design — comes complete with a full pint of HYDE'S new bird food.

No. DP4 — Price \$3.95 (Filled)

BIRD'S COMPLETE DINNER — Refill for Bird's Dinner Pail — a brand new food cake that contains a balanced diet that all popular birds love!

No. BD3 — Price \$1.95 (Full Pint)



Send for free Catalogue.

HYDE BIRD FEEDER COMPANY
56 Felton Street
Waltham 54, Mass.

The Best

BINOCULARS



will not make you an expert alone. BUT poor glasses will keep you from being one, and from enjoying real satisfaction. And, if you care for your eyes, the only expensive binoculars are poor ones!

NOW you can buy the finest — BAUSCH & LOMB, Wollensak and moderately priced SWIFT Japanese glasses from a Museum Curator with years of practical experience. Tiny overhead permits maximum allowance on your old glasses. Postage paid. Write today —

**NEW and USED
BINOCULARS • TELESCOPES**

BARTLETT HENDRICKS

88 Fort Hill Ave.

Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Field Notes

Mr. and Mrs. Perry S. Howe, of South Harwich, report a WILLET at South Chatham, April 29.



ISLE AU HAUT

*A Bird Paradise and
A Comfortable Inn . . .*

Accommodations usually available at
POINT LOOKOUT CLUB
P. O. Box 1422, Boston, Mass.
After July 1 — Lookout, Maine

Two SNOWY EGRETS were seen in Duxbury, April 30, by Miss Rosella Ames.

An AMERICAN EGRET was observed in Eastham, April 24 to 27, by Mrs. George A. Nikola.

In spite of bitterly cold weather in the latter part of April, an AMERICAN EGRET was seen in Pittsfield, April 28, on a small pond near Lake Onota, by Saul Minneci. It was also observed, April 29, by Bartlett Hendricks, and on May 2 by the Hoffmann Bird Club. The earliest previous arrival of this species in Berkshire County has not been before July, according to Mr. Hendricks.

Field Notes

Many **YELLOW PALM WARBLERS** have been seen at the Ipswich River Sanctuary since April 4, and a peak was reached April 16 when forty or more were noted, according to Sanctuary Director Elmer Foye.

On April 29 at least one pair of **PURPLE MARTINS** was inspecting a new house at North Scituate which replaces one occupied by five or six pairs of Martins the past two summers. House Sparrows were claiming parts of the house, but no Starlings were present.

Mrs. Donald Higgins telephoned from Cotuit in January to say that eight birds had been at her feeder on January 13 which looked like **WESTERN TANAGERS**. Two were there again on January 15, and when Dr. and Mrs. Higgins left for Florida on February 8, the birds were still around. After their return on March 12, the birds were seen once again. Kodachromes were taken and sent to Audubon House which showed that the birds had definite tanager bills and wing bars.

On May 15 the Cokesbury Book Store in Copley Square, Boston, telephoned Audubon House about a **PARULA WARBLER** which was resting on the sill of their show window, but by the time Mrs. Argue, of the Audubon staff, arrived the bird had flown up to the sign over the entrance to the State Street Trust Company, where several members of the Audubon staff had a good view of it.

A. W. Higgins, of Middleboro, reports that on April 21, accompanied by Mrs. Lawrence Romaine, he identified a flock of eight **LEACH'S PETRELS** in flight over the ocean near the mouth of the Merrimack River. He also informs us that his son, Dura Higgins, saw a vulture in West Wareham about April 22, just before a photograph of a **BLACK VULTURE** was published in the local newspaper and reported as having been killed there when mistaken for a crow, although the newspaper called it a probable California Condor!

On April 26 members of the Hoffmann Bird Club witnessed one of the rare spring hawk flights which occasionally occur in the Berkshires. The group was on a hill near Onota Lake in Pittsfield and saw more than fifty hawks during the afternoon, coming from the southwest and flying northeast in groups of twelve, ten, five, and smaller numbers. Included in the flight were Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Broad-winged Hawks, two Sparrow Hawks, an Osprey, and two Turkey Vultures. It was a day of little wind, but perhaps upswinging "thermals" helped the northward migration.

Eugene Cleveland, of Lexington, writes us that members of his family were quite surprised early this year to find that their dog had treed a **RACCOON** in their back yard.

The **CAROLINA WRENS** reported from Middleboro throughout the winter were seen gathering nesting material on March 22. On April 4, A. W. Higgins found the nest with three eggs in a refuse box under a load of flats in a wheelbarrow where they had been left after transplanting pansies. He placed the box on a small bench against the garage a few feet from where the wheelbarrow stood. Later one of the wrens was found on the nest. The next day, April 5, another egg had been laid, and incubation started promptly. But during the night of April 19 something — probably a cat — jumped up and caught the edge of the box tipping it bottom up on the ground and destroying the eggs, which would have hatched in a few days. He added, "Now the Wrens have tied up my dump truck for a month, having built a nest in the tool box under the body."

A **WINTER WREN** was seen in Weston, April 28, by Professor Charles Schweinfurth.

Mrs. Cyril B. Currie, of Reading, reports a **LINCOLN'S SPARROW** at her feeder with a flock of **WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS**, April 28 and 29.

We received the following item of interest from John T. Coolidge, of Milton: "On May 3 I heard something moving at the bottom of a brick chimney in a small unoccupied building on my place, used as a studio and workshop. When I opened the clean-out hole, a drake **WOOD DUCK** appeared, somewhat emaciated by what must have been a confinement of several days. He was too weak to fly, but was soon restored to strength in a small enclosure with a concrete pool where he consumed wheat, poultry mash and lettuce very eagerly. Four days later he was set free and flew vigorously towards the Neponset marshes."

A **BALTIMORE ORIOLE** was seen in her garden on April 27 by Mrs. Cyril B. Currie, of Reading.

Mrs. Parker Hatch noted three **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAKS** at Humarock on April 27.

A male **HOODED WARBLER** was seen in Rockport April 29 by Mrs. William Eldredge and was still there May 1 according to H. Lawrence Jodrey, Jr.

Mrs. Edward Hamlin, of Dedham, reports a **RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD** in her garden on May 1, a very early date.



Automatic Bird Feeder
\$3.75 Postpaid

**WILD BIRDS
ADD
CHARM
TO YOUR
GARDEN**

**Attract the Birds
with our
Patented Automatic Feeder**

*Write for free folder
on other Wild Bird Feeders*

Audubon Workshop, Inc.
4931 N. Kentucky, Chicago 30, Ill.

**CAMERAS — PROJECTORS
FILM RENTALS**

16 mm. Sound and Silent 8 mm.

PATHESCOPE COMPANY
437 Stuart St. CO. 6-0640 Boston

Sanderson Brothers

*Creators of
Fine Printing and Lithography*

NORTH ABINGTON, MASS.
Rockland Boston Providence
2000 Liberty 2-9196 Jackson 1-3411

**HALFTONES AND LINE PLATES
for the Bulletin
are made by the
HARVARD ENGRAVING
COMPANY**
79 Essex St., Boston 11, Mass.



**PETERSON
FIELD GUIDE SERIES**

This famous series, originated and edited by Roger Tory Peterson whose first book is called the "Bible of Ornithologists", has revolutionized identification in the field. They are the basic books for every nature student.

- ① **A Field Guide to the Birds** by Roger Tory Peterson \$3.75
- ② **A Field Guide to Western Birds** by Roger Tory Peterson \$3.75
- ③ **A Field Guide to the Shells of Our Atlantic and Gulf Coasts** by Percy A. Morris \$3.75
- ④ **A Field Guide to the Butterflies** by Alexander B. Klots \$3.75
- ⑤ **A Field Guide to the Mammals** by William H. Burt and Richard P. Grossenheider \$3.75
- ⑥ **A Field Guide to the Pacific Coast and Hawaii** by Percy A. Morris \$3.75

Please send me the following
Field Guides at 3.75 each
Birds.....copies, Western Birds.....copies
Shells of Atlantic & Gulf Coasts.....copies
Butterflies.....copies, Mammals.....copies
Shells of Pacific Coast & Hawaii.....copies

☐ Charge ☐ Send C.O.D.
☐ Check enclosed

Name

Street

City State

add any city or sales tax

MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY
155 Newbury St., Boston 16, Mass.

When dealing with advertisers please mention the BULLETIN.

Field Notes

Mrs. Clyde R. Turner, of Medfield, writes us that last summer a pair of **BROWN THRASHERS** which nested at her place would come to the back door of the house and call for doughnuts, which they seemed to enjoy. Later they brought their young to partake of this food. The Turners are wondering whether the Thrashers will return this summer.

Mrs. George E. French, of Wayland, writes us that a **WOOD DUCK** came down her chimney, where apparently it had been confined for two days before she found it. She rescued it, washed it thoroughly, put it in a box with an open top, and kept it on a diet of corn and water for two days. The bird, a drake, entirely recovered and when released flew over the Sudbury River.

In an April letter from Mrs. William W. Norcross, of Wellesley Hills, she writes that on a recent trip to New Orleans she picked up a **CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW** for a few minutes on the railing of the ship when far off the southern Atlantic coast. What a surprise that must have been!

A male **ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK** visited the feeders of Wallace Pinkham in Vineyard Haven, April 20. The next day Mr. Pinkham found it lying on the lawn half-dead. He took it into the house and in a short time it seemed to be recovering, but at noon it was dead. It was sent to the Audubon Society by Mrs. Dolores Authier for our study collection.

Dr. Herman Sweet called to report a male **SUMMER TANAGER** at Tufts College on May 3 and 4, first noted by Eric Johnson and later observed by members of the faculty and various students, some getting within six feet of the bird.

Mrs. Ruth Sylvester, of Weymouth, reports that her **YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT** was seen, May 4, where one has been seen for the past two seasons, and on the same date she saw a **WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW**. Two White-throats have been at her feeders since January, and in mid-April a flock of twenty-five joined them.

Three **DICKCISSELS**, one male and two females, were identified in February at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Irving H. Peck in Stockbridge. This record, which was confirmed by Alvah Sanborn and Bartlett Hendricks, is apparently the first record for Berkshire County since 1858, ninety-five years ago, when the species was last observed at Williamstown. The complete disappearance of the Dickcissel from the eastern States and its recent return to that area is one of the intriguing mysteries of bird life in this region.

Reports have come to us from Mrs. Eber Heston, of Reading, and others of high mortality among birds during a recent cold spell on Mt. Washington, N. H. A friend of Mrs. Heston's visited the summit of the mountain during the week end of April 18-20; the temperature was around 10 above zero and the wind velocity reached eighty miles an hour. "Hundreds of dead birds of several species were lying on the snow. How many were under the snow?" Can anyone give us details as to species, etc.?

Mrs. Elizabeth Nash heard two **WHIP-POOR-WILLS** calling in Sharon, April 21. One was reported from Townsend, April 28 (Miss Ethel Jerry); one from Fairlee, Vermont, April 29 (Mrs. V. Miskelly); and another was found dead at Squantum, April 30 (Mrs. Nelson).

An early **BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER** was seen in Brookline on the Sargent Estate by Mr. and Mrs. Roger Ernst, April 26.

There was a tremendous movement of birds over April 25-26 week end. Juncos, White-throated Sparrows and Hermit Thrushes were abundant. On the south end of Plum Island Mr. and Mrs. Argue counted 233 Hermits, April 26. Five **YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKERS** were also there, four **BLUE-HEADED VIREOS**, a **WINTER WREN**, Towhees, Brown Creepers, Thrashers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, and a Fox Sparrow. A drake **SHOV-ELLER** was seen on the Wild Life Refuge and a **REDHEAD DUCK** in the Merrimack River near Plum Island.

Mrs. Hervey Elkins observed an **UP-LAND PLOVER** in the Sudbury Valley, April 20.

Wallace McNaught saw an early **GREEN HERON** at Forest Hills Cemetery April 25 and 26, and a pair of **RING-NECKED DUCKS** was also seen in the little pond there.

Mrs. Perry S. Howe, of South Harwich, saw a **CATBIRD** and a **GREEN HERON** there on April 28, and a **MOCKINGBIRD** at South Chatham the same day. A **TOW-HEE** arrived in her yard, April 25. Her wintering **WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW** was still present.

Mrs. Elizabeth Nash tells us a **TOW-HEE** was in her yard at Sharon, April 24.

Mrs. F. H. Gage noted an **ALBINO ROBIN** in her Swampscott garden, April 28.

A **SOLITARY SANDPIPER** was recorded in Concord, April 29, by Mrs. Bertam Wellman. Allan Richardson had a **SPOTTED SANDPIPER** at Green Harbor, April 28.



HAL H. HARRISON: *Author-photographer-lecturer Hal Harrison is one of the most widely-read wildlife experts in the U.S. His pictures and stories have appeared in Life, Saturday Evening Post, Collier's, National Geographic and dozens of other well-known magazines. His excellent wildlife motion pictures in natural color, in which he does the narrating, have been viewed by thousands. Mr. Harrison lives with his wife and two teen-age children in Tarentum, Pa., where he is wildlife editor of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette.*

"No other glass can do the job as well"

WRITES HAL HARRISON: "In the successful photography of wildlife, I consider a good binocular as essential as a good camera. Much of my work must be done in poor light and under adverse conditions. Here I depend on my Bausch & Lomb binocular to 'see' my subject quickly and clearly. No other glass I have ever tried can do the job as well as Bausch & Lomb. I recommend it without reservation."

Hal H. Harrison

WRITE FOR FREE CATALOG. 32 pages of useful information you should know before you buy any binocular. Tells how to select a glass for your own use. Bausch & Lomb Optical Co., 12418 Lomb Park, Rochester 2, N. Y.



*Bausch & Lomb
Zephyr-Light
Balcoated Optics
7x, 35mm
Binocular
\$186, Federal
Tax Included*

For Sale at AUDUBON HOUSE, 155 Newbury St., Boston



Hand-Carved and Hand-Painted Birds

We have at AUDUBON HOUSE a fine selection of the exquisitely carved and beautifully painted miniature bird models, mounted on appropriate bits of weathered wood, the work of Robert Morse. Come in and pick out your favorite, or write us your wishes.

Land birds, singles	\$ 6.00
Waterfowl, ducks or geese, singles	7.50
Pair of ducks or geese mounted together	15.00

No discount

NEW and UNUSUAL LONG-PLAYING RECORD

Music and Bird Songs \$5.00

Sounds from Nature, with Commentary and Analysis by James Fasset; known to millions who listen to "Your Invitation to Music," the Sunday afternoon broadcasts of the New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra.

For the convenience of our members, bird food and other items handled at Audubon's Store may be secured at the Berkshire Museum, Pittsfield, and Pleasant Valley Sanctuary, Lenox; Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Northampton; Moose Hill Sanctuary, Sharon; Ipswich River Sanctuary, Topsfield; and Cook's Canyon, Barre.

Prices subject to change without notice

HUMMINGBIRD FEEDERS

Filled with sweetened water will bring feathered jewels daily to your garden, a fascinating sight.

Single cup, wire bracket	\$1.10
Double cups on flower stake	2.50
Triple cups on flower stake	3.00
Floral Fountain	2.75

New Gstell Hummingbird Feeder
Easy to clean; Easy to fill; Unbreakable. Double cups of plastic, also attract Orioles, Thrushes, Catbirds, Warblers and other birds \$1.50

No discount.

MOOSE HILL SPECIAL BIRD FOOD MIXTURE

5 lbs.	10 lbs.	25 lbs.	50 lbs.	100 lbs.
1.10	2.00	5.00	9.00	17.00
Peanut hearts, 5 lbs. 1.25				

Binoculars and Telescopes

Bausch and Lomb Binoculars with Coated Lenses. Cases included.

7 x 35 Zephyr-Light Binocular, central focus	\$186.00
8 x 30 Zephyr-Light Binocular, central focus	204.00
9 x 35 Zephyr-Light Binocular, central focus	204.00
7 x 50 Binocular, individual focus	210.00

Bausch and Lomb Telescope

A handy, light scope, with interchangeable eye pieces. Length 16½ inches. Weight 48 ounces. This telescope adds a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction to coastal birding.

B and L Telescope, 20x or 30x	\$95.00
-------------------------------------	---------

Swift Line of Japanese Binoculars. Cases included.

Triton 7 x 35 Binocular, central focus	\$66.00
Neptune 7 x 35 Binocular, central focus	78.00
Medalist 8 x 40 Binocular, central focus	150.00
Mariner 7 x 50 Binocular, central focus	66.00
Commodore 7 x 50 Binocular, individual focusing	90.00

20% Tax included in all prices.

Second Hand Binoculars and Scope

1 Field Glass	\$ 6.00
1 8 x 25 Zeiss Binocular, individual focus	35.00
1 Bausch & Lomb Telescope, 20X	75.00
1 8 x 40 Zeiss Binocular, individual focus, with case	100.00

No Discount on Binoculars

Rental Department

Binoculars, 7 x 35, \$1.00 per day	\$5.00 per week
Telescope and tripod	\$6.50 per week

BIRD SONG RECORDINGS;—

Volume I, 72 bird songs, 78 RPM, \$.75 for three days, \$1.50 per week
Volume II, 51 bird songs, 78 RPM, \$.75 for three days, \$1.50 per week
Voices of the Night, 78 RPM, \$.75 for three days, \$1.50 per week
A Mockingbird Sings 78 RPM, \$.50 for three days, \$1.00 per week
Florida Bird Songs 78 RPM, \$.50 for three days, \$1.00 per week
Bird Songs of Dooryard, Field and Forest, 33 1/3 RPM,
..... \$.75 for three days, \$1.50 per week
Music and Bird Songs, 33 1/3 RPM, \$.50 for three days, \$1.00 per week

KODACHROME SLIDES TO ACCOMPANY

Volume I, Voices of the Woods	\$2.50 per week
Volume II, American Bird Songs	\$2.50 per week
Voices of the Night	\$2.00 per week

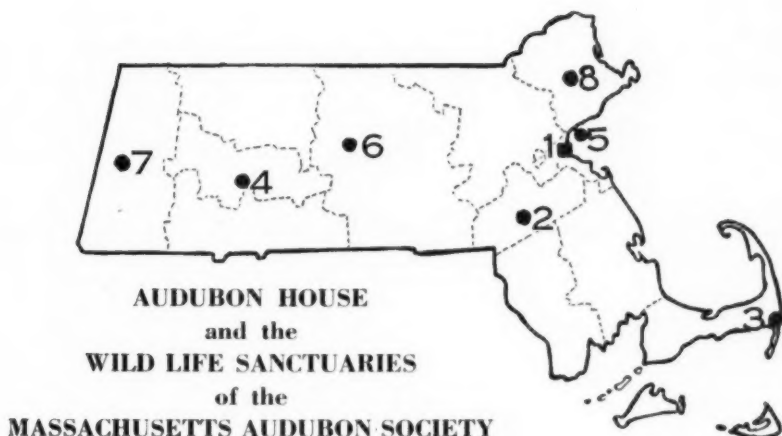
AUDUBON HOUSE, 155 Newbury St., Boston

BOOKS — — BOOKS — — BOOKS

We offer the best and latest books on Nature Lore, Natural Science, and Conservation, and Field Guides to all branches of Natural History, including all books reviewed in the *Bulletin*. A fine assortment for Young and Old, always on display and for sale at AUDUBON HOUSE, 155 Newbury Street, Boston 16.

Members of the Massachusetts Audubon Society are entitled to a discount of ten per cent on most books (no discount if marked *).

Popular Handbook of British Birds	\$9.50	Field Book of Wild Birds And Their Music	4.50
Edited by P. A. D. Hollom		F. Schuyler Mathews	
About 1000 birds and 200 eggs illustrated in color; a condensa- tion of Witherby's five volumes.		Field Book of Ponds and Streams	5.00
I Drank the Zambesi	4.00	Ann Haven Morgan	
Arthur Loveridge		Field Book of Seashore Life	7.00
A Guide to Bird Songs	3.00	Roy Waldo Miner	
Aretas A. Saunders		Field Book of Nature Activities	3.95
Pocket Guide to British Birds ..	4.50	Francis J. Rigney	
R. S. R. Fitter		Beginner's Guide to Fresh Water Life	2.00
1000 illustrations, 600 in color		Leon A. Hausman	
Shoreland Summer Diary	8.00	Beginner's Guide to Seashore Life	2.00
C. F. Tunnicliffe		Leon A. Hausman	
*The Fulmar	7.50	*Summer Birds of Lincoln Co., Me.60
James Fisher		Allan D. Cruickshank	
*Watching Birds50	*Berkshire Birds50
James Fisher		Bartlett Hendricks	
*Bird Recognition85	*Check-list of Birds of Virginia	1.50
James Fisher		Joseph James Murray	
Photography Afield	7.50	*Outdoor Schoolroom for Outdoor Living	1.00
Ormal I. Sprungman		William G. Vinal	
*Plants of the Bible	7.50	*Adventuring in Nature75
H. and A. Moldenke		Betty Price	
John Burroughs' America	4.50	A Guide to Bird Watching (reprint)	1.98
Edited by Farida A. Wiley		Joseph J. Hickey	
Illustrated by F. L. Jaques			
The Outdoor Guide	4.50		
Hal H. Harrison			
Weeds of Lawn and Garden	3.00		
John M. Fogg, Jr.			



1. **Audubon House, 155 Newbury St., Boston 16.**
Headquarters building. Offices. Salesroom. General information on educational work, lectures, membership, etc. Reference and lending libraries.
2. **Moose Hill Wildlife Sanctuary, Sharon.**
Established 1916. About 25 miles from Boston near Providence Pike. 250 acres mixed woodland. Small pond. Museum. Nature Trails. Albert W. Bussewitz, Resident Director. Advisory Committee: Chairman for each meeting appointed in advance by retiring chairman.
3. **Tern Island Wildlife Sanctuary, Chatham.**
Established 1936. 10 acres sand and beach grass. Large colony of nesting terns. Management, O. L. Austin Ornithological Research Station, North Eastham.
4. **Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Northampton.**
Established 1944. 300 acres meadow, marsh, and woodland. Nature Trails. Memorial and experimental plantings. Studio workshop. Edwin A. Mason, Resident Director. Advisory Committee: David A. Riedel, Chairman.
5. **Nahant Thicket Wildlife Sanctuary, Nahant.**
Established 1948. 4 acres. On Atlantic Flyway. Hordes of migrating land birds in spring and fall. Trails. Advisory Committee: James T. Kelly, Chairman.
6. **Cook's Canyon Wildlife Sanctuary, Barre.**
Established 1948. 35 acres. Coniferous plantation. Small pond. Rocky gorge. Interesting trails. Site of Natural Science Workshop for leaders and resident and day camps for boys and girls. Leon A. P. Magee, Resident Director. Advisory Committee: Mrs. James F. Nields, Jr., Chairman.
7. **Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Lenox.**
A "Bird and Wild Flower" Sanctuary since 1929. A square mile of typical Berkshire woodland and stream valley. Nature Trails. Trailside Museum. Beaver pond. Barn Tearoom in summer. Alvah W. Sanborn, Resident Director. Advisory Committee: Robert Crane, Chairman.
8. **Ipswich River Wildlife Sanctuary, Topsfield, Wenham and Hamilton.**
Established 1951. 2000 acres. On Ipswich River. Extensive marshland with islands. Great variety introduced trees and shrubs. Elmer P. Foye, Resident Director. Advisory Committee: Ralph Lawson, Chairman.

*Further information about any of the above sanctuaries may be obtained from
Massachusetts Audubon Society.*

"CONSERVATION IN ACTION"

THE AUDUBON EDUCATION PROGRAM

Is Supported Largely

By Your Current Dues and Donations

400 Weekly or Biweekly Classes in Conservation and Natural Science in the Schools of Massachusetts, taught by our staff of twenty trained and experienced teachers reaching 15,000 boys and girls during the school year.

Demonstration Natural History Camps for Children at five of the seven Audubon Sanctuaries in Massachusetts.

Conservation and Natural Science Workshop for Camp Counselors, Teachers, and other Youth Group Leaders.

200 Lectures annually by members of the Audubon Staff to Garden Clubs, Women's Clubs, Parent-Teacher Associations, School Biology Classes, and other groups.

Therapy Programs for Patients at several New England Hospitals.

Audubon Junior Clubs with 10,000 members in Schools, Museums and Camps.

Local Bird Trips and Campouts for healthful recreation.

Circulars relating to Bird and Mammal Conservation distributed regularly to 7500 Youth Group Leaders throughout the Commonwealth.

Audubon Visual Aids furnished at small cost to Teachers and Lecturers.

The BULLETIN OF THE MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY, an outstanding magazine in its field, published nine times a year. RECORDS OF NEW ENGLAND BIRDS, monthly.

Annual Lecture Series: "AUDUBON NATURE THEATRE" in a dozen cities and towns of Massachusetts.

Lending and Reference Libraries available to members.

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR CO-OPERATION IN
CARRYING ON THIS MOST IMPORTANT WORK OF
THE SOCIETY.**

Will you consider the desirability of making the Massachusetts Audubon Society a legatee under your will, or make such recommendation to your friends?